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| (54) Title: METHOD FOR RAISING HDL CHOLESTEROL LEVELS   |  |           |  |
| (57) Abstract   |  |           |  |
| Compounds which are PPAR $\delta$ agonists are described. These compounds are useful for raising high density lipoprotein (HDL) plasma levels in mammals and for preventing, halting or slowing the progression of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases and related conditions and disease events. PPAR $\delta$ agonists can be administered alone or in combination with additional active agents such as LDL-lowering agents. |  |           |  |

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- 1 -

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

## METHOD FOR RAISING HDL CHOLESTEROL LEVELS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5                   This application is a continuation-in part and claims  
priority to of each of the following U.S provisional applications:  
application no. 60/011093 filed February 2, 1996 (Merck attorney  
docket no. 19630PV); application no. 60/----- filed December 23, 1996  
(Merck attorney docket no. 19630PV2); application no. 60/011094 filed  
10 February 2, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19631PV); application no.  
60/----- filed December 23, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no.  
19631PV2); application no. 60/011080 filed February 2, 1996 (Merck  
attorney docket no. 19632PV); application no. 60/----- filed December  
23, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19632PV2); application no.  
15 60/011025 filed February 2, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no.  
19633PV); and application no. 60/----- filed December 23, 1996  
(Merck attorney docket no. 19877PV); each of which are herein  
incorporated by reference in their entirety.

                  This application is related to the following U.S. non-  
20 provisional applications: Serial No. --/----- filed January 31, 1997  
(Merck attorney docket no. 19630Y); Serial No. --/----- filed January  
31, 1997 (Merck attorney docket no. 19631Y); Serial No. --/----- filed  
January 31, 1997 (Merck attorney docket no. 19632Y); Serial No. --/---  
--- filed January 31, 1997 (Merck attorney docket no. 19633Y); each of  
25 which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

                  The instant invention is directed to ligands that bind to and  
act as agonists of the delta human peroxisome proliferator activated  
receptor (PPAR $\delta$ ). The agonists are useful for raising high density  
lipoprotein levels and for preventing, halting or slowing the progression  
30 of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases and related conditions and  
disease events.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- 2 -

Hyperlipidemia is a condition which is characterized by an abnormal increase in serum lipids, such as cholesterol, triglycerides and phospholipids. These lipids do not circulate freely in solution in plasma, but are bound to proteins and transported as macromolecular complexes called lipoproteins. There are five classifications of lipoproteins based on their degree of density: chylomicrons, very low density lipoproteins (VLDL), low density lipoproteins (LDL), intermediate density lipoproteins (IDL), and high density lipoproteins (HDL). These classifications are commonly known in the art and are described, for example, in the *Merck Manual*, 16th Ed. 1992 (see for example pp. 1039-1040) and "Structure and Metabolism of Plasma Lipoproteins" in *Metabolic Basis of Inherited Disease*, 6th Ed. 1989, pp. 1129-1138.

One form of hyperlipidemia is hypercholesterolemia, characterized by the existence of elevated LDL cholesterol levels. The initial treatment for hypercholesterolemia is often to modify the diet to one low in fat and cholesterol, coupled with appropriate physical exercise, followed by drug therapy when LDL-lowering goals are not met by diet and exercise alone. LDL is commonly known as the "bad" cholesterol, while HDL is the "good" cholesterol. Although it is desirable to lower elevated levels of LDL cholesterol, it is also desirable to increase levels of HDL cholesterol. Generally, it has been found that increased levels of HDL are associated with lower risk for coronary heart disease (CHD). See, for example, Gordon, et al., *Am. J. Med.*, 62, 707-714 (1977); Stampfer, et al., *N. England J. Med.*, 325, 373-381 (1991); and Kannel, et al., *Ann. Internal Med.*, 90, 85-91 (1979). An example of an HDL raising agent is nicotinic acid, but the quantities needed to achieve HDL raising are associated with undesirable effects, such as flushing.

Peroxisome proliferators are a structurally diverse group of compounds that when administered to rodents elicit dramatic increases in the size and number of hepatic and renal peroxisomes, as well as concomitant increases in the capacity of peroxisomes to metabolize fatty acids via increased expression of the enzymes of the

- 3 -

beta-oxidation cycle. Compounds of this group include but are not limited to the fibrate class of hyperlipidemic drugs, herbicides and phthalate plasticizers. Peroxisome proliferation is also triggered by dietary or physiological factors such as a high-fat diet and cold acclimatization.

Three sub-types of peroxisome proliferator activated receptor (PPAR) have been discovered and described; they are peroxisome proliferator activated receptor alpha (PPAR $\alpha$ ), peroxisome proliferator activated receptor gamma (PPAR $\gamma$ ) and peroxisome proliferator activated receptor delta (PPAR $\delta$ ). Identification of PPAR $\alpha$ , a member of the nuclear hormone receptor superfamily activated by peroxisome proliferators, has facilitated analysis of the mechanism by which peroxisome proliferators exert their pleiotropic effects. PPAR $\alpha$  is activated by a number of medium and long-chain fatty acids, and it is involved in stimulating  $\beta$ -oxidation of fatty acids. PPAR $\alpha$  is also involved with the activity of fibrates and fatty acids in rodents and humans. Fibric acid derivatives such as clofibrate, fenofibrate, bezafibrate, ciprofibrate, beclofibrate and etofibrate, as well as gemfibrozil, produce a substantial reduction in plasma triglycerides along with moderate reduction in LDL cholesterol, and they are used particularly for the treatment of hypertriglyceridemia.

The PPAR $\gamma$  receptor subtypes are involved in activating the program of adipocyte differentiation and are not involved in stimulating peroxisome proliferation in the liver. There are two isoforms of PPAR $\gamma$ : PPAR $\gamma$ 1 and PPAR $\gamma$ 2, which differ only in that PPAR $\gamma$ 2 contains an additional 28 amino acids present at the amino terminus. The DNA sequences for the isotypes are described in Elbrecht, et al., BBRC 224;431-437 (1996). In mice, PPAR $\gamma$ 2 is expressed specifically in fat cells. Tontonoz *et al.*, *Cell* 79: 1147-1156 (1994) provide evidence to show that one physiological role of PPAR $\gamma$ 2 is to induce adipocyte differentiation. As with other members of the nuclear hormone receptor superfamily, PPAR $\gamma$  2 regulates the expression of genes through interaction with other proteins and binding to hormone response elements for example in the 5' flanking regions of responsive

- 4 -

genes. An example of a PPAR $\gamma$ 2 responsive gene is the tissue-specific adipocyte P2 gene. Although peroxisome proliferators, including the fibrates and fatty acids, activate the transcriptional activity of PPAR's, only prostaglandin J2 derivatives have been identified as natural ligands of the PPAR $\gamma$  subtype, which also binds thiazolidinedione antidiabetic agents with high affinity.

The human nuclear receptor gene PPAR $\delta$  (hPPAR $\delta$ ) has been cloned from a human osteosarcoma cell cDNA library and is fully described in A. Schmidt et al., *Molecular Endocrinology*, 6 :1634-1641 (1992), herein incorporated by reference. It should be noted that PPAR $\delta$  is also referred to in the literature as PPAR $\beta$  and as NUC1, and each of these names refers to the same receptor; in Schmidt et al, the receptor is referred to as NUC1.

In WO96/01430, a human PPAR subtype, hNUC1B, is disclosed. The amino acid sequence of hNUC1B differs from human PPAR $\delta$  (referred to therein as hNUC1) by one amino acid, i.e., alanine at position 292. Based on in vivo experiments described therein, the authors suggest that hNUC1B protein represses hPPAR $\alpha$  and thyroid hormone receptor protein activity.

However, prior to the instant invention, no function had been identified for the PPAR $\delta$  subtype. Applicants have now discovered that ligands which are agonists of PPAR $\delta$  are useful for raising HDL levels. Since there is a continued need for methods to increase HDL levels in mammals, particularly humans, the present invention addresses this need by providing novel methods and compounds useful for raising HDL.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One object of this invention is to provide a method for raising high density lipoprotein (HDL) plasma levels in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering an HDL-raising amount of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist.

A second object is to provide methods for preventing, halting or slowing the progression of atherosclerotic cardiovascular

- 5 -

diseases and related conditions and disease events in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering an HDL-raising amount of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist.

5 A third object is to provide methods for preventing, halting or slowing the progression of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases and related conditions and disease events in a mammal in need of such treatment comprising administering an HDL-raising amount of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist in combination with one or more additional active agents, for example an hydroxymethylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG-  
10 CoA) reductase inhibitor.

A fourth object is to describe and provide compounds which are PPAR $\delta$  agonists and which are useful for the above-described methods. Additional objects will be evident from the following description.

15

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Compounds of the instant invention are those which activate and therefore are agonists of PPAR $\delta$ . All compounds which can be determined to be agonists of PPAR $\delta$  using scientifically sound in vitro  
20 or in vivo assay procedures are intended to be within the scope of this invention. More particularly, PPAR $\delta$  agonists which are intended to be within the scope of this invention are those which have (1) an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10  $\mu$ M in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay, and (2) an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10  $\mu$ M in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay.  
25 Preferably, the PPAR $\delta$  agonists have an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 100 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay, and an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 100 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay. More preferably, the PPAR $\delta$  agonists have an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 50 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay, and an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 50 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay.  
30 Most preferably, the PPAR $\delta$  agonists have an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay, and an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay. Compounds which are PPAR $\delta$  agonists as defined above may also have activity at the PPAR $\gamma$  or PPAR $\alpha$  receptors.

- 6 -

The hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay comprises the steps of:

- 5 (a) preparing multiple test samples by incubating separate aliquots of the receptor hPPAR $\delta$  with a test compound in TEGM containing 5-10% COS-1 cell cytoplasmic lysate and 2.5 nM labeled ([ $^3$ H $_2$ ]Compound D, 17 Ci/mmole) for a minimum of 12 hours, and preferably for about 16 hours, at 4 °C, wherein the concentration of the test compound in each test sample is different, and preparing a control sample by incubating a further separate aliquot of the receptor hPPAR $\delta$  under the same conditions but without the test compound;
- 10 then
- (b) removing unbound ligand by adding dextran/gelatin-coated charcoal to each sample while maintaining the samples at 4 °C and allowing at least 10 minutes to pass, then
- (c) subjecting each of the test samples and the control sample from step 15 (b) to centrifugation at 4 °C until the charcoal is pelleted; then
- (d) counting a portion of the supernatant fraction of each of the test samples and the control sample from step (c) in a liquid scintillation counter and analyzing the results to determine the IC $_{50}$  of the test compound.

- 20 In the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay, preferably at least four test samples of varying concentrations of a single test compound are prepared in order to determine the IC $_{50}$ .

The hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay comprises the steps of:

- 25 (a) seeding an hPPAR $\delta$ /GR stable CHO-K1 cell line into alpha MEM containing 10% FCS, 10 mM HEPES, and 500 mg/ml G418 at 37°C in an atmosphere of 10% CO $_2$  in air,
- (b) incubating the cells from step (a) for 16 to 48 hours, preferably about 20 hours, at 37°C in an atmosphere of 10% CO $_2$  in air;
- (c) washing the cells from step (b) with alpha MEM;
- 30 (d) preparing multiple test cell groups by incubating separate groups of the cells from step (c) with the test compound in alpha MEM containing 5% charcoal stripped FCS, 10 mM HEPES, and 500 mg/ml G418, for 24 to 48 hours, preferably about 24 hours, at 37°C in an atmosphere of 10% CO $_2$  in air, wherein the concentration of

- 7 -

the test compound in each test cell group is different, and preparing a control cell group by incubating a further separate group of the cells from step (c) under the same conditions but without the test compound; then

- 5 (e) preparing cell lysates from each of the test cell groups and the control cell group of step (d) using an aqueous detergent lysis buffer, and
- (f) measuring the luciferase activity of the test cell groups and the control cell group of step (e) and analyzing the results to determine
- 10 the EC<sub>50</sub> of the test compound.

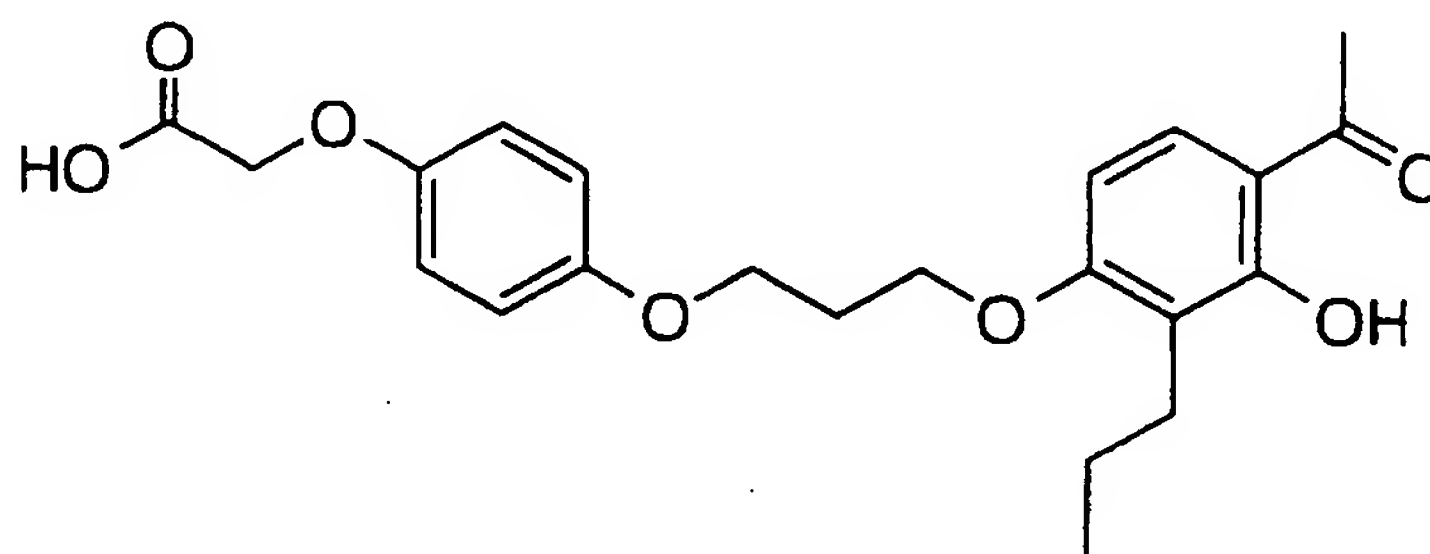
In the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay, preferably at least four test cell groups of varying concentrations of a single test compound are prepared in order to determine the EC<sub>50</sub>.

- Specific examples of the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay and the
- 15 hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay are described below in Examples 1B and 3B, respectively.

Examples of compounds which are PPAR $\delta$  agonists include, but are not limited to, the following compounds A through F and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof:

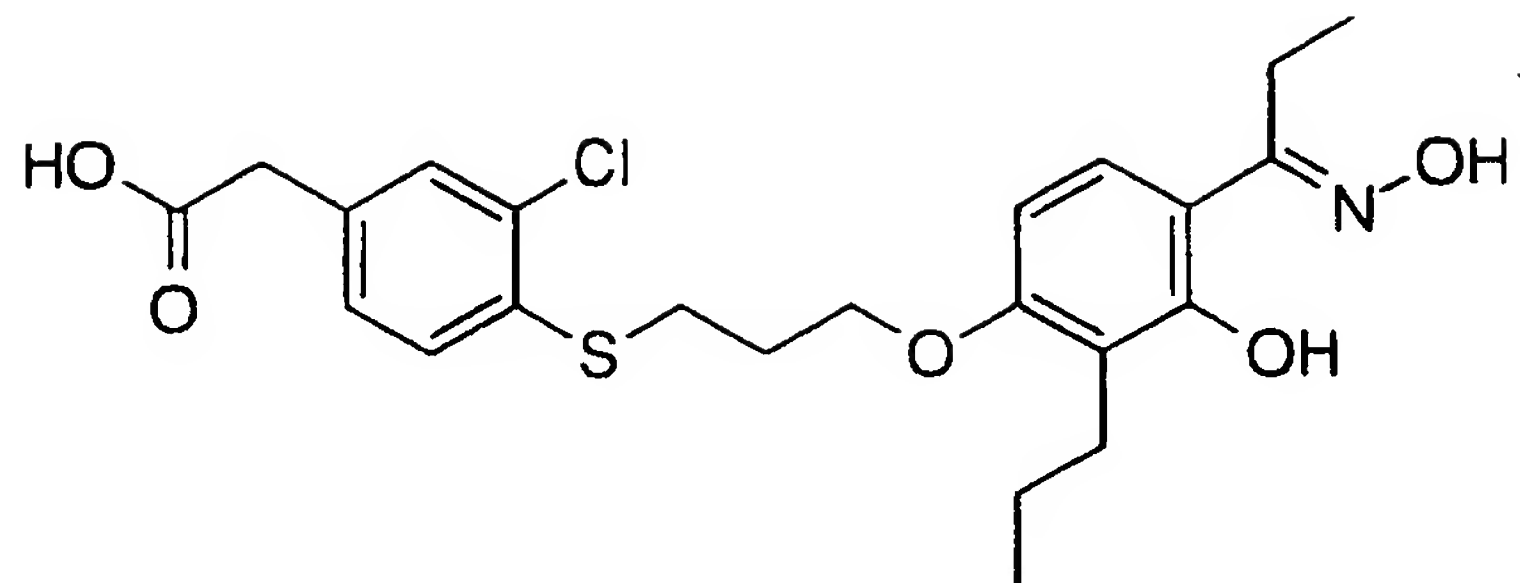
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A)

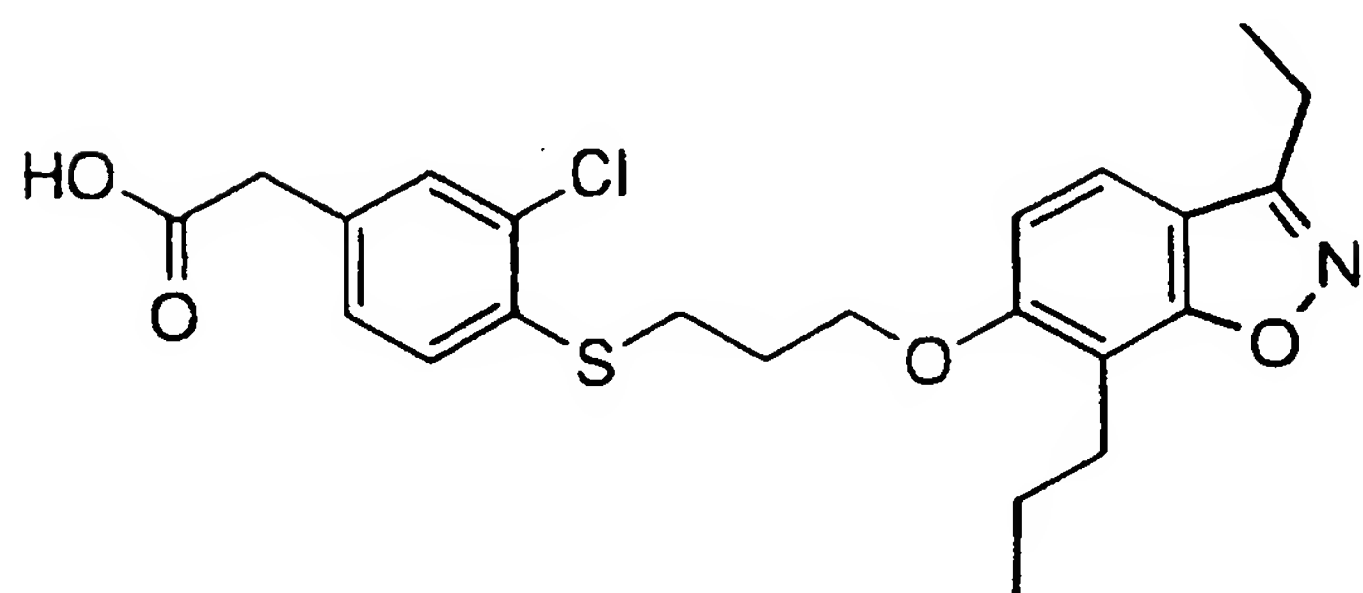


- 8 -

B)

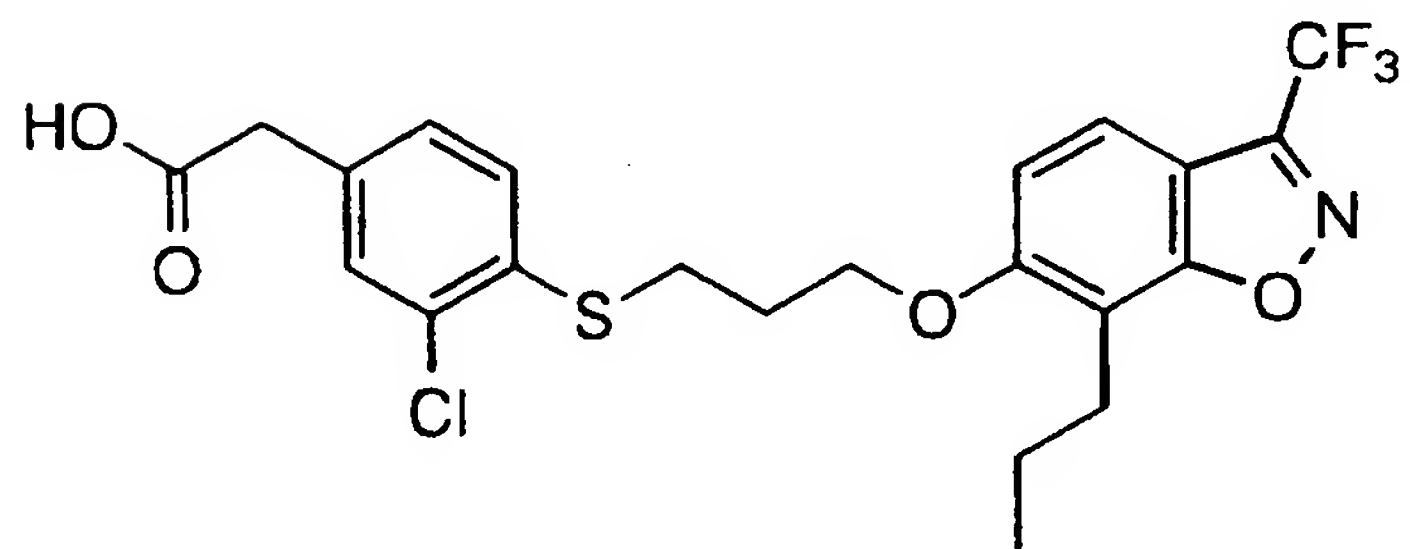


C)



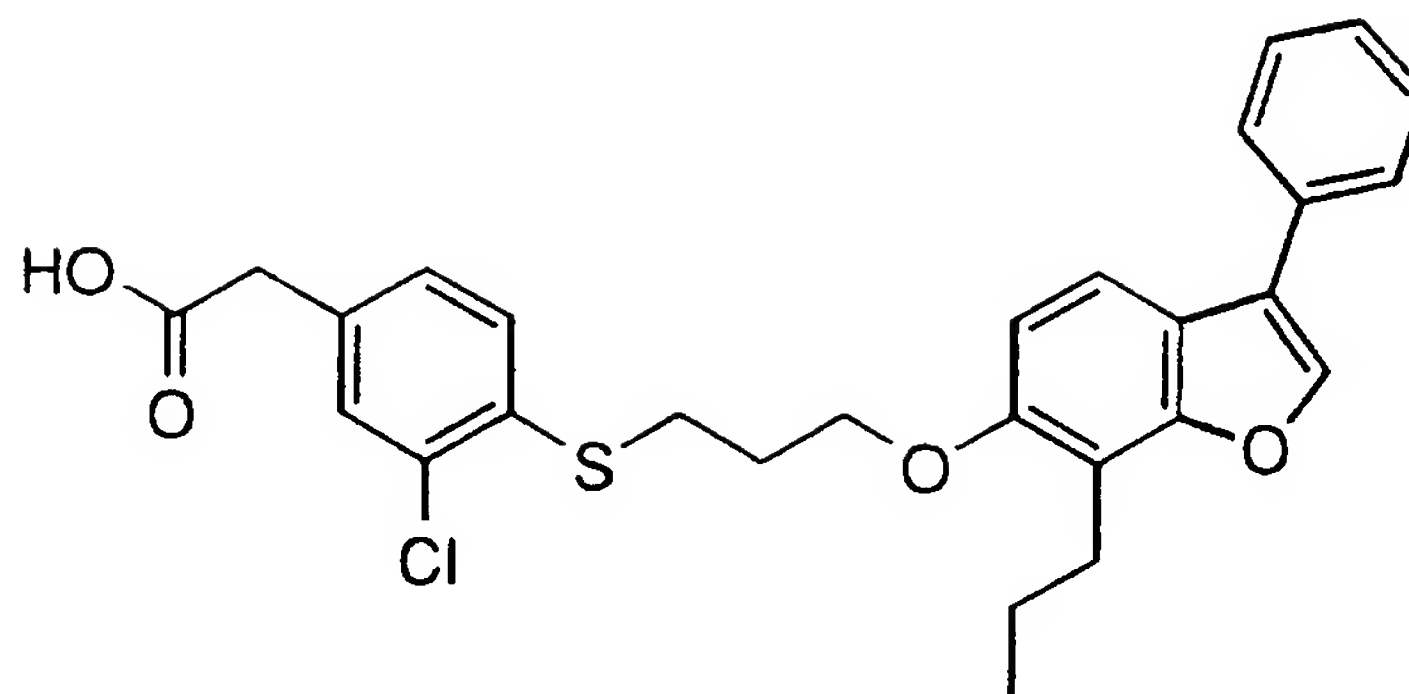
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D)

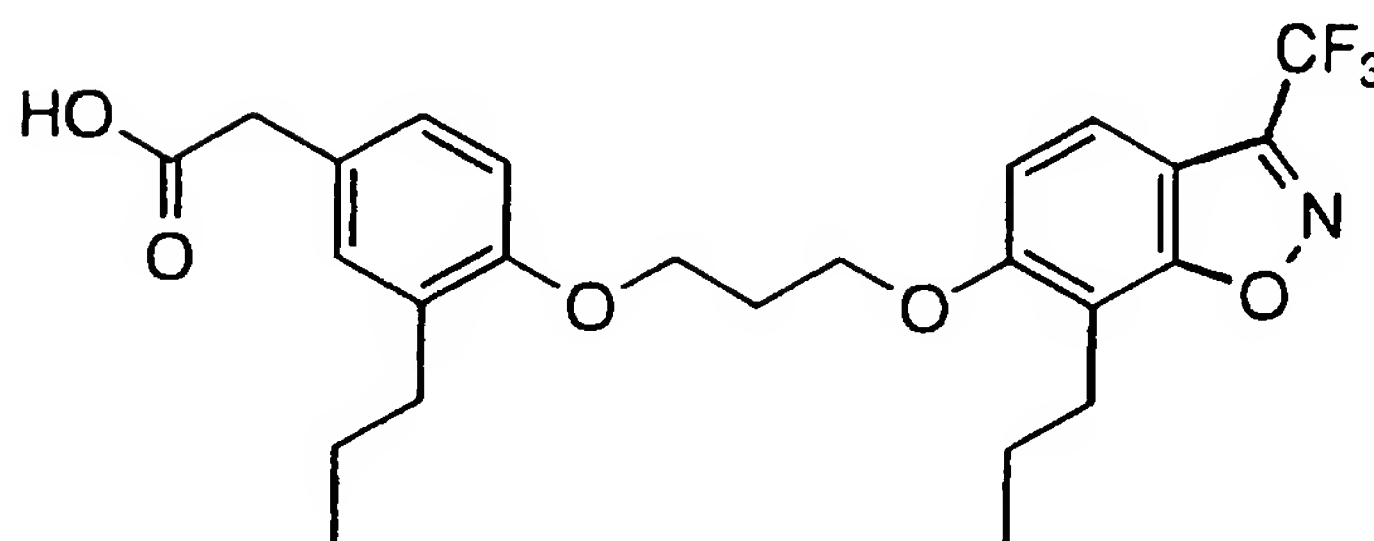


- 9 -

E)



and F)



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Additional compounds which are PPAR $\delta$  agonists and are included within the scope of this invention include but are not limited to those found in the following U.S provisional applications: application  
10 no. 60/011093 filed February 2, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19630PV); application no. 60/----- filed December 23, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19630PV2); application no. 60/011094 filed February 2, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19631PV); application no. 60/----- filed December 23, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19631PV2);  
15 application no. 60/011080 filed February 2, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19632PV); application no. 60/----- filed December 23, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19632PV2); application no. 60/011025 filed February 2, 1996 (Merck attorney docket no. 19633PV); and application no. 60/----- filed December 23, 1996

- 10 -

(Merck attorney docket no. 19877PV); each of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Additional compounds which are PPAR $\delta$  agonists and are included within the scope of this invention include but are not limited to those found in the following U.S non-provisional applications: Serial  
5 No. --/----- filed January 31, 1997 (Merck attorney docket no. 19630Y); Serial No. --/----- filed January 31, 1997 (Merck attorney docket no. 19631Y); Serial No. --/----- filed January 31, 1997 (Merck attorney docket no. 19632Y); and Serial No. --/----- filed January 31,  
10 1997 (Merck attorney docket no. 19633Y); each of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

The instant invention provides methods for preventing or reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis, comprising the administration of a prophylactically effective amount, or more  
15 particularly an HDL-raising amount, of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist, alone or in combination with one or more additional pharmaceutically active agents, to a mammal, particularly human, who is at risk of developing atherosclerosis.

PPAR $\delta$  agonists can also be used in methods for treating, halting or slowing the progression of atherosclerotic disease once it has become clinically evident, comprising the administration of a  
20 therapeutically effective amount, or more particularly an HDL-raising amount, of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist, alone or in combination with one or more additional pharmaceutically active agents, to a mammal, particularly  
25 human, who already has atherosclerotic disease.

Atherosclerosis encompasses vascular diseases and conditions that are recognized and understood by physicians practicing in the relevant fields of medicine. Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease (also known as coronary artery disease  
30 or ischemic heart disease), cerebrovascular disease and peripheral vessel disease are all clinical manifestations of atherosclerosis and are therefore encompassed by the terms "atherosclerosis" and "atherosclerotic disease."

- 11 -

The instant invention further provides methods for preventing or reducing the risk of a first or subsequent (where the potential exists for recurrence) atherosclerotic disease event, comprising the administration of a prophylactically effective amount, or more particularly an HDL-raising amount, of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist, alone or in combination with one or more additional pharmaceutically active agents, to a mammal, particularly human, who is at risk for having an atherosclerotic disease event. The term "atherosclerotic disease event" as used herein is intended to encompass coronary heart disease events, cerebrovascular events, and intermittent claudication. Coronary heart disease events are intended to include CHD death, myocardial infarction (i.e., a heart attack), and coronary revascularization procedures. Cerebrovascular events are intended to include ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke (also known as cerebrovascular accidents) and transient ischemic attacks. Intermittent claudication is a clinical manifestation of peripheral vessel disease. It is intended that persons who have previously experienced one or more non-fatal atherosclerotic disease event are those for whom the potential for recurrence of such an event exists.

Persons to be treated with the instant therapy include those at risk of developing atherosclerotic disease and of having an atherosclerotic disease event. Standard atherosclerotic disease risk factors are known to the average physician practicing in the relevant fields of medicine. Such known risk factors include but are not limited to hypertension, smoking, diabetes, low levels of high density lipoprotein cholesterol, high levels of low density lipoprotein cholesterol, and a family history of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Published guidelines for determining those who are at risk of developing atherosclerotic disease can be found in: National Cholesterol Education Program, Second report of the Expert Panel on *Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults (Adult Treatment Panel II)*, National Institute of Health, National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, NIH Publication No. 93-3095, September 1993; *abbreviated version*: Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and

- 12 -

Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults, *Summary of the second report of the national cholesterol education program (NCEP) Expert Panel on Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Cholesterol in Adults (Adult Treatment Panel II)*, JAMA, 1993, 269, pp. 3015-23. People who are identified as having one or more of the above-noted risk factors are intended to be included in the group of people considered at risk for developing atherosclerotic disease. People identified as having one or more of the above-noted risk factors, as well as people who already have atherosclerosis, are intended to be included within the group of people considered to be at risk for having an atherosclerotic disease event.

As used herein, the term "composition" is intended to encompass a product comprising the specified ingredients, in specified amounts where amounts are specified, as well as any product which results directly or indirectly from combination of the specified ingredients, in the specified amounts where amounts are specified.

The active PPAR $\delta$  agonist compounds of the present invention may be orally administered as a pharmaceutical composition, for example, with an inert diluent, or with an assimilable edible carrier, or they may be enclosed in hard or soft shell capsules, or they may be compressed into tablets, or they may be incorporated directly with the food of the diet. For oral therapeutic administration, which includes sublingual administration, these active compounds may be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of tablets, pills, capsules, ampules, sachets, elixirs, suspensions, syrups, and the like. The active compounds can also be administered intranasally as, for example, liquid drops or spray. Oral administration is preferred. Such compositions and preparations should contain at least 0.1 percent of active compound. The percentage of active compound in these compositions may, of course, be varied and may conveniently be between about 2 percent to about 60 percent of the weight of the unit.

Therapeutically effective amounts, prophylactically effective amounts and/or high density lipoprotein-raising amounts of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist are suitable for use in the compositions and methods of

- 13 -

the present invention. The term "therapeutically effective amount" is intended to mean that amount of a drug or pharmaceutical agent that will elicit the biological or medical response of a tissue, a system, animal or human that is being sought by a clinician, such as a  
5 researcher, veterinarian, medical doctor or osteopathic doctor.

The term "prophylactically effective amount" is intended to mean that amount of a drug or pharmaceutical agent that will prevent or reduce the risk of occurrence of a medical condition, such as atherosclerosis or an atherosclerotic disease event.

10 The term "high density lipoprotein-raising amount" is intended to mean an amount of a drug or pharmaceutical agent that will elevate a subject's plasma HDL level above the level it was at prior to administration of the drug or pharmaceutical agent. Measurement of plasma HDL levels can be performed using any medically acceptable  
15 procedures known to those skilled in the medical arts, including assay kits designed for use directly by consumers.

The dosage regimen utilizing a PPAR $\delta$  agonist is selected in accordance with a variety of factors including type, species, age, weight, sex and medical condition of the patient; the severity of the condition to  
20 be treated; the route of administration; the renal and hepatic function of the patient; and the particular compound or derivative thereof employed. A consideration of these factors is well within the purview of the ordinarily skilled clinician for the purpose of determining an appropriate HDL-raising amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist, as well as the  
25 therapeutically effective amounts of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist needed to prevent, counter, or arrest the progress of the condition.

For example, the compounds of the present invention can be administered at a daily dosage of from about 0.1 milligram to about 100 milligram per kilogram of animal body weight, once a day or given  
30 in divided doses two to six times a day, or in sustained release form. For most large mammals, the total daily dosage is from about 1.0 milligram to about 1000 milligrams, preferably from about 1 milligram to about 50 milligrams. In the case of a 70 kg adult human, the total daily dose will generally be from about 7 milligrams to about 350

- 14 -

milligrams. This dosage regimen may be adjusted to provide the optimal therapeutic response.

The tablets, pills, capsules, and the like may also contain a binder such as gum tragacanth, acacia, corn starch or gelatin; excipients  
5 such as dicalcium phosphate; a disintegrating agent such as corn starch, potato starch, alginic acid; a lubricant such as magnesium stearate; and a sweetening agent such as sucrose, lactose or saccharin. When a dosage unit form is a capsule, it may contain, in addition to materials of the above type, a liquid carrier such as a fatty oil.

10 Various other materials may be present as coatings or to modify the physical form of the dosage unit. For instance, tablets may be coated with shellac, sugar or both. A syrup or elixir may contain, in addition to the active ingredient, sucrose as a sweetening agent, methyl and propylparabens as preservatives, a dye and a flavoring such as  
15 cherry or orange flavor.

These active compounds may also be administered parenterally. Solutions or suspensions of these active compounds can be prepared in water suitably mixed with a surfactant such as hydroxy-propylcellulose. Dispersions can also be prepared in glycerol, liquid  
20 polyethylene glycols and mixtures thereof in oils. Under ordinary conditions of storage and use, these preparations contain a preservative to prevent the growth of microorganisms.

The pharmaceutical forms suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions or dispersions and sterile powders for  
25 the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersions. In all cases, the form must be sterile and must be fluid to the extent that easy syringability exists. It must be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi.  
30 The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (e.g. glycerol, propylene glycol and liquid polyethylene glycol), suitable mixtures thereof, and vegetable oils.

- 15 -

In the above-described methods, the PPAR $\delta$  agonist may be administered alone or in combination with one or more additional active agents. Combination therapy includes administration of a single pharmaceutical dosage formulation which contains a PPAR $\delta$  agonist and one or more additional active agents, as well as administration of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist and each active agent in its own separate pharmaceutical dosage formulation. For example, a PPAR $\delta$  agonist and an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor can be administered to the patient together in a single oral dosage composition such as a tablet or capsule, or each agent administered in separate oral dosage formulations. Where separate dosage formulations are used, the PPAR $\delta$  agonist and one or more additional active agents can be administered at essentially the same time, i.e., concurrently, or at separately staggered times, i.e., sequentially; combination therapy is understood to include all these regimens.

For example, the PPAR $\delta$  agonist may be administered in combination with one or more of the following active agents: an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent such as a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor, for example an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, an HMG-CoA synthase inhibitor, a squalene epoxidase inhibitor, or a squalene synthetase inhibitor (also known as squalene synthase inhibitor); an acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT) inhibitor such as melinamide; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof and niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor such as beta-sitosterol; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin such as cholestyramine, colestipol or a dialkylaminoalkyl derivatives of a cross-linked dextran; an LDL (low density lipoprotein) receptor inducer; fibrates such as clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil; vitamin B<sub>6</sub> (also known as pyridoxine) and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof such as the HCl salt; vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (also known as cyanocobalamin); anti-oxidant vitamins such as vitamin C and E and beta carotene; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; and a platelet aggregation

- 16 -

inhibitor such as fibrinogen receptor antagonists (i.e., glycoprotein IIb/IIIa fibrinogen receptor antagonists) and aspirin. As noted above, the PPAR $\delta$  agonist can be administered in combination with more than one additional active agent, for example, a combination of  
5 PPAR $\delta$  agonist with an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and aspirin, or PPAR $\delta$  agonist with an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and a beta blocker.

The PPAR $\delta$  agonist is preferably administered with a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor, particularly an HMG-CoA reductase  
10 inhibitor. The term HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is intended to include all pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, free acid and lactone forms of compounds which have HMG-CoA reductase inhibitory activity, and therefore the use of such salts, esters, free acids and lactone forms is included within the scope of this invention. Compounds which  
15 have inhibitory activity for HMG-CoA reductase can be readily identified by using assays well-known in the art. For example, see the assays described or cited in U.S. Patent 4,231,938 at col. 6, and WO 84/02131 at pp. 30-33. Examples of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors that may be used include but are not limited to lovastatin  
20 (MEVACOR<sup>®</sup>; see US Patent No. 4,231,938), simvastatin (ZOCOR<sup>®</sup>; see US Patent No. 4,444,784), pravastatin sodium (PRAVACHOL<sup>®</sup>; see US Patent No. 4,346,227), fluvastatin sodium (LESCOL<sup>®</sup>; see US Patent No. 5,354,772), atorvastatin calcium (LIPITOR<sup>®</sup>; see US Patent No. 5,273,995) and rivastatin (also known as cerivastatin; see US Patent  
25 No. 5,177,080). The structural formulas of these and additional HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors that may be used in the instant methods are described at page 87 of M. Yalpani, "Cholesterol Lowering Drugs", *Chemistry & Industry*, pp. 85-89 (5 February 1996). Preferably, the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from lovastatin and  
30 simvastatin.

Dosage information for HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors is well known in the art, since several HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors are marketed in the U.S. In particular, the daily dosage amounts of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor may be the same or

- 17 -

similar to those amounts which are employed for anti-hypercholesterolemic treatment and which are described in the *Physicians' Desk Reference* (PDR). For example, see the 50<sup>th</sup> Ed. of the PDR, 1996 (Medical Economics Co); in particular, see at page 5 216 the heading "Hypolipidemics," sub-heading "HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors," and the reference pages cited therein. Preferably, the oral dosage amount of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is from about 1 to 200 mg/day, and more preferably from about 5 to 160 mg/day. However, dosage amounts will vary depending on the 10 potency of the specific HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor used as well as other factors as noted above. An HMG-CoA RI which has sufficiently greater potency may be given in sub-milligram daily dosages.

As examples, the daily dosage amount for simvastatin may 15 be selected from 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg and 160 mg; for lovastatin, 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg; for fluvastatin sodium, 20 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg; and for pravastatin sodium, 10 mg, 20 mg, and 40 mg. The daily dosage amount for atorvastatin calcium may be in the range of from 1 mg to 160 mg, and more particularly from 5 mg to 80 20 mg. Oral administration may be in single or divided doses of two, three, or four times daily, although a single daily dose of the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is preferred.

In accordance with this invention, an HDL-raising amount of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist can be used for the preparation of a medicament 25 useful for raising the plasma level of high density lipoprotein in mammals, particularly in humans. Furthermore, a prophylactically effective amount of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist can be used for the preparation of a medicament useful for preventing or reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis, and for preventing or reducing the risk of having a first 30 or subsequent atherosclerotic disease event in mammals, particularly in humans. Also, a therapeutically effective amount of a PPAR $\delta$  agonist can be used for the preparation of a medicament useful for treating atherosclerosis in mammals, particularly in humans.

- 18 -

Additionally, in the preparation of the above-described medicaments, the PPAR $\delta$  agonist can be admixed together with a therapeutically effective amount of one or more additional active agents selected from the group consisting of: an LDL-lowering agent; an  
5 antihyperlipidemic agent; an HDL-raising agent; an HMG-CoA synthase inhibitor; a squalene epoxidase inhibitor; a squalene synthetase inhibitor; an acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol acyltransferase inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof; niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; a low density  
10 lipoprotein receptor inducer; clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil; vitamin B6 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B12; an anti-oxidant vitamin; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; a platelet aggregation inhibitor; a fibrinogen receptor antagonist; and aspirin.

15 In particular, the PPAR $\delta$  agonist and a therapeutically effective amount of an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor can be admixed together for the preparation of a medicament useful for the above-described treatments. More particularly, the PPAR $\delta$  agonist and a therapeutically effective amount of an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor  
20 selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lactone, free acid, ester and salt forms of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin and rivastatin can be admixed together for the preparation of a medicament suitable for oral administration which is useful for the above-described treatments. Most particularly, the HMG-CoA reductase  
25 inhibitor used for the medicament preparation is lovastatin or simvastatin.

Compounds which are PPAR $\delta$  agonists within the scope of this invention can be identified by the following procedures. To evaluate IC50 or EC50 values the compounds were titrated in the  
30 appropriate assay using different concentrations of the compound to be tested. To obtain the appropriate values (%Inhibition-IC50, or %Activation-EC50), the data resulting from the assays were then analyzed by determining the best fit of a 4 parameter function to the

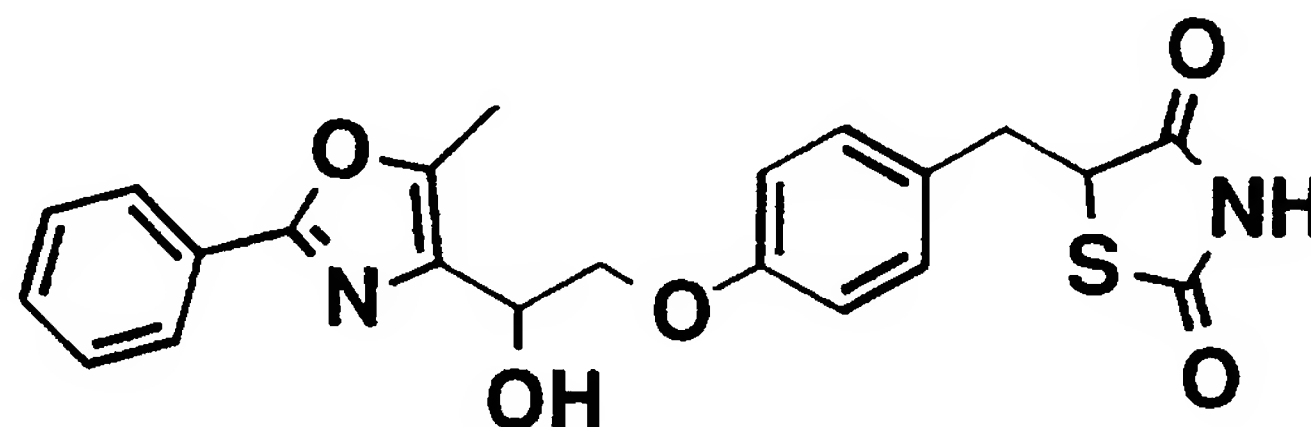
- 19 -

data using the Levenberg-Marquardt non-linear fitting algorithm in Kaleidagraph (Synergy Software, Reading, PA).

The human nuclear receptor gene PPAR $\delta$  (hPPAR $\delta$ ) has been cloned from a human osteosarcoma cell cDNA library and is fully  
5 described in A. Schmidt et al., Molecular Endocrinology, 6 :1634-1641 (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Particular terms and abbreviations used herein are defined as follows: gst is glutathione-S-transferase; EDTA is ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid; HEPES is N-[2-hydroxyethyl]-piperazine-N'-[2-  
10 ethanesulfonic acid]; FCS is fetal calf serum; Lipofectamine is a 3:1 (w/w) liposome formulation of the polycationic lipid 2,3-dioleyloxy-N-[2(spermine-carboxamido)ethyl]-N,N-dimethyl-1-propanaminium-trifluoroacetate and the neutral lipid dioleoyl phosphatidylethanolamine in water; G418 is geneticin; MEM is Minimum Essential Medium; Opti  
15 MEM 1 Reduced-Serum Medium is an aqueous composition containing HEPES buffer, 2400 mg/L sodium bicarbonate, hypoxanthine, thymidine, sodium pyruvate, L-glutamine, trace elements, growth factors, and phenol red reduced to 1.1 mg/L; Luciferase Assay Reagent (in re-constituted form) is an aqueous composition containing 20 mM  
20 tricine, 1.07 mM (MgCO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>•5H<sub>2</sub>O, 2.67 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.1 mM EDTA, 33.3 mM DTT, 270  $\mu$ M coenzyme A, 470  $\mu$ M luciferin, 530  $\mu$ M ATP, having a final pH of 7.8.

AD-5075 has the following structure:



AD-5075 (Takeda)

25 Compound D can also be used in place of AD-5075 in the hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 binding assay.

Opti MEM 1 Reduced-Serum Medium, alpha MEM, G418, and Lipofectamine are commercially available from GibcoBRL Life

- 20 -

Technologies, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Alpha MEM is an aqueous composition having the following components:

| <b>Component: Inorganic Salts</b>                   | <b>mg/L</b> |
|---|-------------|
| CaCl <sub>2</sub> (anhyd.)                          | 200.00      |
| CaCl <sub>2</sub> •2H <sub>2</sub> O                | --          |
| KCl   | 400.00      |
| MgSO <sub>4</sub> (anhyd.)                          | 97.67       |
| MgSO <sub>4</sub> •7H <sub>2</sub> O                | --          |
| NaCl  | 6800.00     |
| NaHCO <sub>3</sub>                                  | 2200.00     |
| NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> •H <sub>2</sub> O  | 140.00      |
| NaH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> •2H <sub>2</sub> O | --          |
| <b>Other Components:</b>                            | <b>mg/L</b> |
| D-Glucose   | 1000.00     |
| Lipoic Acid   | 0.20        |
| Phenol Red  | 10.00       |
| Sodium Pyruvate                                     | 110.00      |
| <b>Amino Acids:</b>                                 | <b>mg/L</b> |
| L-Alanine   | 25.00       |
| L-Arginine•HCl                                      | 126.00      |
| L-Asparagine•H <sub>2</sub> O                       | 50.00       |
| L-Aspartic Acid                                     | 30.00       |
| L-Cystine   | --          |
| L-Cystine•2HCl                                      | 31.00       |
| L-Cysteine HCl                                      | --          |
| L-Cysteine HCl•H <sub>2</sub> O                     | 100.00      |

- 21 -

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| L-Glutamic Acid                  | 75.00       |
| L-Glutamine                      | 292.00      |
| L-Alanyl-L-Glutamine             | --          |
| Glycine                          | 50.00       |
| L-Histidine HCl•H <sub>2</sub> O | 42.00       |
| L-Isoleucine                     | 52.00       |
| L-Leucine                        | 52.00       |
| L-Lysine•HCl                     | 73.00       |
| L-Methionine                     | 15.00       |
| L-Phenylalanine                  | 32.00       |
| L-Proline                        | 40.00       |
| L-Serine                         | 25.00       |
| L-Threonine                      | 48.00       |
| L-Tryptophan                     | 10.00       |
| L-Tyrosine                       | --          |
| L-Tyrosine (disodium salt)       | 52.00       |
| L-Valine                         | 46.00       |
| <b>Vitamins:</b>                 | <b>mg/L</b> |
| L-Ascorbic acid                  | 50.00       |
| Biotin                           | 0.10        |
| D-Ca Pantothenate                | 1.00        |
| Choline Chloride                 | 1.00        |
| Folic acid                       | 1.00        |
| i-Inositol                       | 2.00        |
| Niacinamide                      | 1.00        |
| Pyridoxal HCl                    | 1.00        |
| Riboflavin                       | 0.10        |

- 22 -

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Thiamine HCl                | 1.00        |
| Vitamin B <sub>12</sub>     | 1.40        |
| <b>Ribonucleosides</b>      | <b>mg/L</b> |
| Adenosine                   | 10.00       |
| Cytidine                    | 10.00       |
| Guanosine                   | 10.00       |
| Uridine                     | 10.00       |
| <b>Deoxyribonucleosides</b> | <b>mg/L</b> |
| 2' Deoxyadenosine           | 10.00       |
| 2' Deoxycytidine HCl        | 11.00       |
| 2' Deoxyguanosine           | 10.00       |
| Thymidine                   | 10.00       |

EXAMPLE 1APreparation of Human PPAR $\delta$ 

5 Human PPAR $\delta$  was prepared as a gst-fusion protein in *E. coli*. The full length human cDNA for PPAR $\delta$  was subcloned into the PGEX-KT expression vector (Pharmacia). *E. coli* containing the plasmid were grown, induced, and then harvested by centrifugation. The resuspended pellet was broken in a French press and debris was removed by centrifugation at 12,000Xg. Receptor was purified from the supernatant by affinity chromatography on glutathione sepharose. After application to the column, and 1 wash the receptor was eluted with glutathione. Glycerol was added to stabilize the receptor and aliquots were frozen at -80 °C for later use.

15

EXAMPLE 1B  
hPPAR $\delta$  BINDING ASSAY

[<sup>3</sup>H]Compound D Displacement Assay (PPAR $\delta$ )

- 23 -

For each assay, an aliquot of receptor from Example 1A (1:1000-1:3000 dilution) was incubated in TEGM (10 mM Tris, pH 7.2, 1 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 7  $\mu$ l/100 ml  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, 10 mM Na molybdate, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 5  $\mu$ g/ml aprotinin, 2  $\mu$ g/ml leupeptin, 2  $\mu$ g/ml benzamide and 0.5 mM phenylmethylsulfonylfluoride) containing 5-10% COS-1 cell cytoplasmic lysate and 2.5 nM labeled ( $[^3\text{H}_2]$ Compound D, 17 Ci/mmol), with or without test compound (incubation without test compound serves as the control for comparison purposes). Assays were incubated for about 16 hours at 4 °C in a final volume of 300  $\mu$ l. Unbound ligand was removed by addition of 200  $\mu$ l dextran/gelatin-coated charcoal, on ice, for about 10 minutes. After centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 10 min at 4 °C, 200  $\mu$ l of the supernatant fraction was counted in a liquid scintillation counter. In this assay the  $K_D$  for Compound D is about 1 nM.

## EXAMPLE 2A

### Preparation of Human PPAR $\gamma$ 2

Human PPAR $\gamma$ 2 was prepared as a gst-fusion protein in *E. coli*. The full length human cDNA for PPAR $\gamma$ 2 was subcloned into the PGEX-2T expression vector (Pharmacia). *E. coli* containing the plasmid were propagated, induced, and then harvested by centrifugation. The resuspended pellet was broken in a French press and debris was removed by centrifugation at 12,000Xg. Recombinant human PPAR $\gamma$ 2 receptor was purified from the supernatant by affinity chromatography on glutathione sepharose. After application to the column, and 1 wash, receptor was eluted with glutathione. Glycerol was added to stabilize the receptor and aliquots were frozen at -80 °C for later use.

## EXAMPLE 2B

### hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 BINDING ASSAY

[ $^3\text{H}$ ]AD-5075 Displacement Assay (PPAR $\gamma$ 2)

- 24 -

For each assay, an aliquot of receptor from Example 2A (1:1000-1:3000 dilution) was incubated in TEGM (10 mM Tris, pH 7.2, 1 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 7  $\mu$ l/100 ml  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, 10 mM Na molybdate, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 5  $\mu$ g/ml aprotinin, 2  $\mu$ g/ml leupeptin, 2  $\mu$ g/ml benzamide and 0.5 mM phenylmethylsulfonylfluoride) containing 5-10% COS-1 cell cytoplasmic lysate and 10 nM labeled thiazolidinedione ( $[^3\text{H}_2]$ AD-5075, 21 Ci/mmol), with or without test compound (incubation without test compound serves as the control for comparison purposes). Assays were incubated for about 16 hours at 4 °C in a final volume of 300  $\mu$ l. Unbound ligand was removed by addition of 200  $\mu$ l dextran/gelatin-coated charcoal, on ice, for about 10 minutes. After centrifugation at 3000 rpm for 10 min at 4 °C, 200  $\mu$ l of the supernatant fraction was counted in a liquid scintillation counter. In this assay the  $K_D$  for AD-5075 is about 1 nM.

### EXAMPLE 3A

#### A. Plasmids

The chimeric receptor expression construct, pSG5-hPPAR $\delta$ /GR, was prepared by inserting the DNA binding domain of the murine glucocorticoid receptor adjacent to the ligand binding domain of hPPAR $\delta$ . The glucocorticoid receptor-responsive reporter vector, pMMTV/luc/neo, contains the murine mammary tumour virus (MMTV) promoter adjacent to the luciferase gene (luc) and the neomycin resistance gene (neo). It was constructed from pMMTV/luc. Prior to transfection into CHO-K1 cells, pSG5-hPPAR $\delta$ /GR was linearized with Xba I. pMMTV/luc/neo DNA was cut with Pvu I. The PPAR-responsive reporter construct, pPPRE-luc, contained 3 copies of a generic PPRE placed adjacent to the thymidine kinase minimal promoter and the luciferase reporter gene. The transfection control vector, pCMV-lacZ, contains the galactosidase Z gene under the regulation of the cytomegalovirus promoter.

- 25 -

### B. Production of stable cell lines

CHO-K1 cells were seeded overnight at  $6 \times 10^5$  cells /60 mm dish in alpha MEM additionally containing 10% FCS, 10 mM HEPES, 100 units/ml PenicillinG and 100 µg/ml Streptomycin sulfate, at 37°C in an atmosphere of 10% CO<sub>2</sub> in air. The cells were washed once with Opti MEM 1 Reduced-Serum Medium and then cotransfected with 4.5 µg of pSG5-hPPARδ/GR expression vector and 0.5 µg of pMMTV/luc/neo in the presence of 100 µg Lipofectamine (Gibco-BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. Transfection medium was removed 2 hours later and replaced with growth medium. After being incubated for 3 days, cells were subcultured by diluting the cell suspension 1/1250 and 1/6250 and placing the cells in a 100 mm culture dish. Selection of the stable cell lines was initiated the next day by adding 500 µg/ml G418 to the medium. Cells were routinely fed with the selection media for 1 month at which time 120 colonies were picked and transferred to 24 well culture plates. Ten days later, confluent colonies were transferred to a 6 well plate to maintain stocks and to 96 well plates to assay for luciferase activity. Positive clones were characterized and validated by titrating 4 known agonists on each clone. Two clones, g2B2P2D9 and d2A5P2G3, were selected for screening purposes.

### EXAMPLE 3B

#### hPPARδ TRANSACTIVATION ASSAY

25

#### hPPARδ/GR transactivation screens in stably transfected CHO-K1 cells

The hPPARδ/GR stable CHO-K1 cell lines from Example 3A were seeded at  $1 \times 10^4$  cells/well into 96 well cell culture plates in alpha MEM containing 10% FCS, 10 mM HEPES, and 500 mg/ml G418 at 37°C in an atmosphere of 10% CO<sub>2</sub> in air. After a 20 hour incubation, cells were washed once with alpha MEM and then incubated at 37°C in an atmosphere of 10% CO<sub>2</sub> in air in alpha MEM containing 5% charcoal stripped FCS, 10 mM HEPES, and 500 mg/ml G418. The cells were incubated for 24 hours in the absence of test compound or in

- 26 -

the presence of a range of concentrations of test compound. Cell lysates were prepared from washed cells using Reporter Lysis Buffer (Promega) according to the manufacturer's directions. Luciferase activity in cell extracts was determined using Luciferase Assay Reagent  
5 buffer (Promega) in a ML3000 luminometer (Dynatech Laboratories).

#### EXAMPLE 4A

##### A. Plasmids

10 The chimeric receptor expression construct, pSG5-hPPAR $\gamma$ 2/GR was prepared, and the production of stable cell lines was performed, according to the procedures described in Example 3A, except that hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 was substituted for the hPPAR $\delta$  used therein.

15

#### EXAMPLE 4B

##### hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 TRANSACTIVATION ASSAY

##### hPPAR $\gamma$ 2/GR transactivation screens in stably transfected CHO-K1 cells

20 The assay is performed as described in Example 3B, except that hPPAR $\gamma$ 2/GR stable CHO-K1 cell lines are employed in place of the hPPAR $\delta$ /GR stable CHO-K1 cell lines.

25 Table 1, below, shows the results of the hPPAR $\delta$  and hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 binding assay and transactivation assay for the listed compounds.

- 27 -

TABLE 1

| Compound   | Binding (IC <sub>50</sub> , nM) |                      | Transactivation (EC <sub>50</sub> , nM) |                     |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|
|            | gst-hPPAR $\delta$              | gst-hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 | hPPAR $\delta$ /GR                      | hPPAR $\gamma$ 2/GR |
| Compound A | 40                              | 8,000                | 90                                      | 10,000              |
| Compound B | 7                               | 51                   | 5                                       | 400                 |
| Compound C | 8                               | 171                  | 22                                      | 650                 |
| Compound F | 2                               | 724                  | 2                                       | 2,300               |
| Compound E | 7                               | 23                   | 4                                       | 500                 |
| Compound D | 3                               | 2                    | 5                                       | 800                 |

5

EXAMPLE 5A. Plasmids

The wild type receptor construct, pSG5-hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 was prepared by inserting the full-length hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 cDNA adjacent to the SV40 promoter in pSG5. The wild type receptor construct, pJ3-hPPAR $\delta$ , was prepared by placing the hPPAR $\delta$  cDNA adjacent to the SV40 promoter in pJ3 omega.

B. Characterization of ligand activity on wild-type hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 and hPPAR $\delta$

COS-1 cells were seeded at  $0.5 \times 10^5$  cells/dish into 24 well plates in Dulbecco's modified Eagle medium (high glucose) containing 10% charcoal stripped fetal calf serum, nonessential amino acids, 100 units/ml Penicillin G and 100  $\mu$ g/ml Streptomycin sulfate at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 10% CO<sub>2</sub>. After 24 hours, transfections were performed with Lipofectamine (Gibco-BRL,

- 28 -

Gaithersburg, MD) according to the instructions of the manufacturer. In general, for transactivation experiments, transfection mixes contained 0.15 mg of hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 or hPPAR $\delta$  expression vector, 0.15 mg of reporter vector pPPRE-luc and 0.001 mg of pCMV-lacZ as an internal control of transfection efficiency. Compounds demonstrating significant agonist activity in the above primary screen were further characterized by incubation with transfected cells for 48 hours across a range of concentrations. Luciferase activity was determined as described above.

10

In a similar manner, hPPAR $\gamma$ 1 cDNA can be used in place of hPPAR $\gamma$ 2 cDNA in the methods described in Example 5 to make the wild type receptor construct, pSG5-hPPAR $\gamma$ 1.

15

## EXAMPLE 6 IN VIVO STUDIES

### Methods:

db/db Mice are obese, highly insulin resistant animals. The db locus has been shown to code for the leptin receptor. These animals are substantially hypertriglyceridemic and hyperglycemic.

Male db/db mice (10-11 week old C57Bl/KFJ, Jackson Labs, Bar Harbor, ME) were housed 5/cage and allowed *ad lib.* access to ground Purina rodent chow and water. The animals, and their food, were weighed every 2 days and were dosed daily by gavage with vehicle (0.5% carboxymethylcellulose) alone or with vehicle containing test compound at the indicated dose. Drug suspensions were prepared daily. Plasma glucose, triglyceride, and cholesterol concentrations were determined from blood obtained by tail bleeds at 3-5 day intervals during the study period. Glucose, triglyceride, and cholesterol determinations were performed on a Boehringer Mannheim Hitachi 911 automatic analyzer (Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN) using heparinized plasma diluted 1:5, or 1:6 (v/v) with normal saline. Lean

25  
30

- 29 -

animals were age-matched heterozygous mice maintained in the same manner.

Lipoprotein analysis was performed on either serum, or EDTA treated plasma obtained by heart puncture from anesthetized animals at the end of the study. Apolipoprotein concentrations were determined by ELISA, and cholesterol particles were analyzed by FPLC, precipitation, or ultracentrifugation. Total liver RNA was prepared from tissue that had been frozen on liquid nitrogen at the time of euthanasia. Apolipoprotein mRNA was analyzed on Northern Blots using specific probes for rat proteins.

#### Cholesterol measurements:

##### A. Precipitation

HDL was separated from apo B-containing lipoproteins by dextran sulfate precipitation. Cholesterol was measured enzymatically using a commercially available cholesterol kit (Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN) and spectrophotometrically quantitated on a microplate reader (EL 311; Bio-Tek Instruments, Winooski, VT).

##### B. Ultracentrifugation

Lipoproteins were separated according to the method of Havel (RJ Havel, HA Eder, and JH Bragdon, "The distribution and chemical composition of ultracentrifugally separated lipoproteins in human serum," J. Clin. Invest. 1955, 34:1345-1353). Briefly, samples are fractionated on potassium bromide density gradients spun at 40,000 rpm, 4 °C, for 24 hours. Densities are adjusted according to the formula:

$$g(\text{KBr}) = (\text{Initial Volume}(d_{\text{final}} - d_{\text{initial}})) / (1 - (d_{\text{final}} \times 0.312))$$

Lipoprotein fractions are defined as follows:

- 30           VLDL:  $d < 1.006 \text{ kg/L}$   
              LDL:  $1.006 < d < 1.063 \text{ kg/L}$   
              HDL:  $1.063 < d < 1.210 \text{ kg/L}$

Table 2, below, shows the ratio of HDL cholesterol to the sum of VLDL + LDL cholesterol for db/db mice treated for 12 days (once daily dosing by oral gavage) with the indicated compound. Values shown represent the mean of 2 pools of serum each made from 4-5 individual animals. Determinations performed both on lipoprotein particles separated by ultracentrifugation and by precipitation of non-HDL cholesterol from whole serum. BRL 49653 is a known PPAR $\gamma$  selective agent (see J. Med. Chem. 1994, 37:3977-3985).

10

TABLE 2

Ratio of (HDL Cholesterol) / (VLDL+LDL Cholesterol).

|                     | db/db control | BRL 49653<br>30 mpk | Compound A |        | Compound F |        |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|--------|------------|--------|
|                     |               |                     | 10 mpk     | 30 mpk | 10 mpk     | 30 mpk |
| Ultracentrifugation | 2.89          | 1.83                | 3.59       | 4.18   | 3.11       | 3.18   |
| Precipitation       | 2.06          | 1.29                | 2.95       | 3.1    | 2.16       | 2      |

15

Table 3, below, shows the serum values following 14 days of dosing in the same experiment as described above for table 2.

TABLE 3

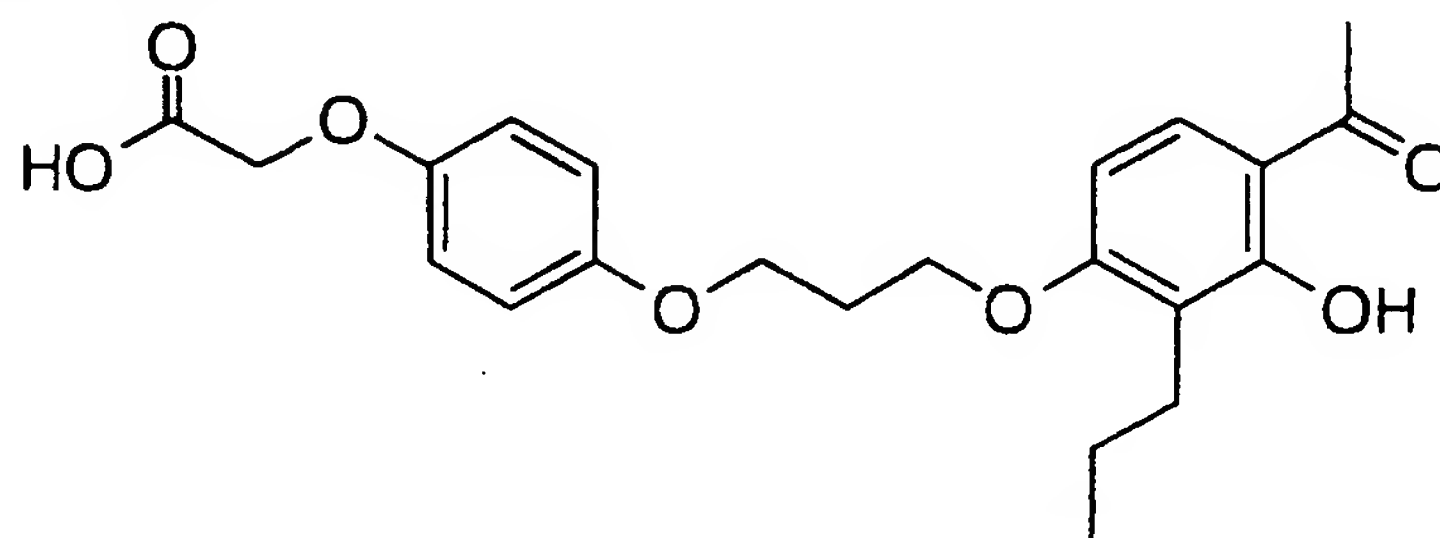
20

Serum Concentrations of Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol

|                 | Treatment       |                  |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
|                 | db/db control   | Compound A       |
| Cholesterol     | 1.56 $\pm$ 0.18 | 1.72 $\pm$ 0.10* |
| HDL-cholesterol | 1.05 $\pm$ 0.20 | 1.3 $\pm$ 0.09** |

EXAMPLE 7

- 5 Preparation of 4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-acetyl-phenoxy)propyloxy)-phenoxy acetic acid



- 10 Step 1:      Preparation of methyl 4-hydroxyphenoxyacetate

Commercially available 4-hydroxyphenoxyacetic acid ( 2 g) was dissolved in methanol (10 ml) with approximately 0.04 ml H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> conc. The mixture was heated 16 hrs under reflux. The mixture was cooled and reduced *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up in ethyl acetate and washed with saturated aq NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, followed by saturated aq NaCl. The EtOAc extracts were dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and reduced *in vacuo*. The ester was used without further purification.

- 20 Characteristic NMR Resonances: <sup>1</sup>H NMR 400MHz (CDCl<sub>3</sub>); 6.76 (Aromatic ABq, 4H), 4.56 (s, 2H), 3.78 (s, 3H). MS CI NH<sub>3</sub> M+NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> = 200. MW = 182.1

- 25 Step 2:      Preparation of 4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-acetyl-phenoxy)propyloxy)phenoxy acetic acid

To a solution of 2,4-dihydroxy-3-propylacetophenone (4.0 g, 20.6 mmol) in 2-butanone (50 mL) was added K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (6.0 g) and 1,3-dibromopropane (10 mL). The reaction was heated to reflux until TLC analysis indicated that the reaction was complete. The reaction

- 32 -

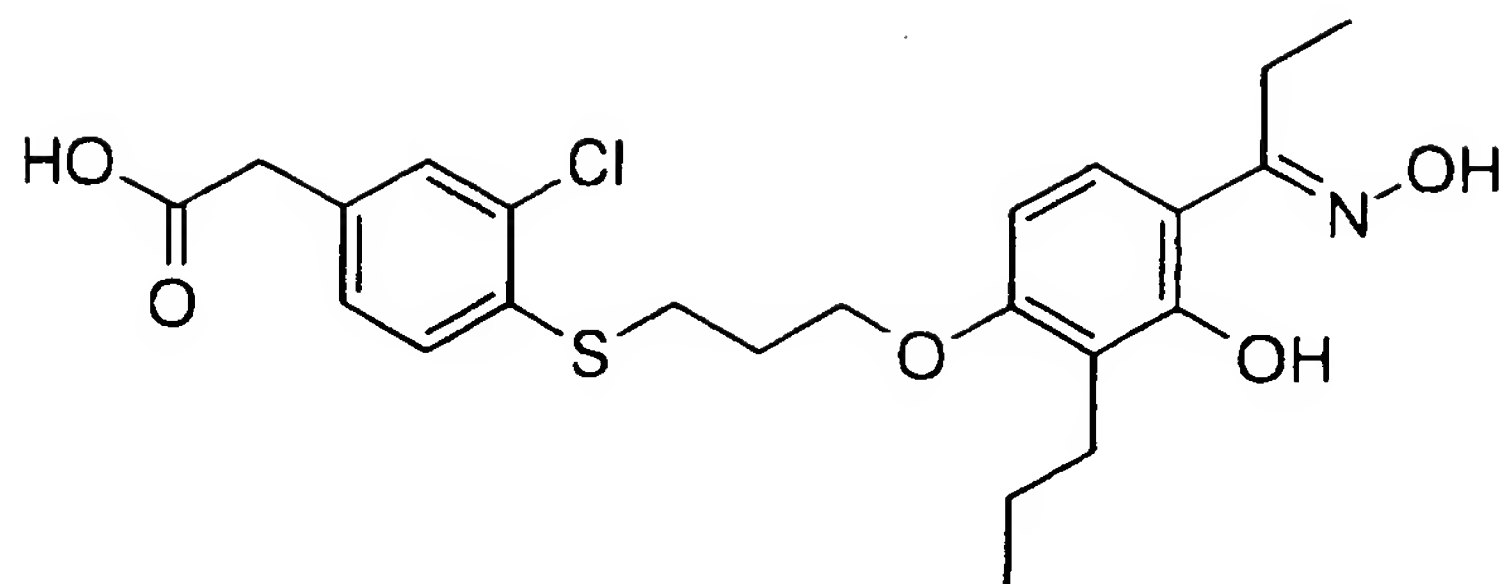
- was filtered and concentrated to a small volume. Column chromatography (0→10% ethyl acetate/hexanes) gave 1-bromo-3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-acetyl-phenoxy)propane. To a solution of methyl 4-hydroxyphenoxyacetate Step 1 (156 mg) and 1-bromo-3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-acetyl-phenoxy)propane (above; 300mg) in 2-butanone (5mL) was added potassium carbonate (196 mg). The mixture was refluxed for 48h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and partitioned between diethyl ether and 2N HCl. The organic layer was separated, washed with brine, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated.
- Column chromatography (30% ethyl acetate/hexanes) gave methyl 4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-acetyl-phenoxy)propyloxy) phenoxy acetate. A solution of methyl 4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-acetyl-phenoxy)propyloxy) phenoxy acetate (above; 100 mg) in 3:1:1 methanol / water / tetrahydrofuran (4 mL) was treated with LiOH.H<sub>2</sub>O (100 mg). The solution was stirred for 2 hour. The solution was partitioned between ethyl acetate and 2N HCl. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to give the title compound as a solid.
- Characteristic NMR Resonances; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (acetone): 7.77 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz); 6.89 (bs, 4H); 6.67 (d, 1H, J = 8.9 Hz); 4.62 (bs, 2H); 4.30 (t, 2H, J = 6.1 Hz); 4.18 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz); 2.62 (bt, 2H, J = 7.4 Hz); 2.58 (s, 3H).

25

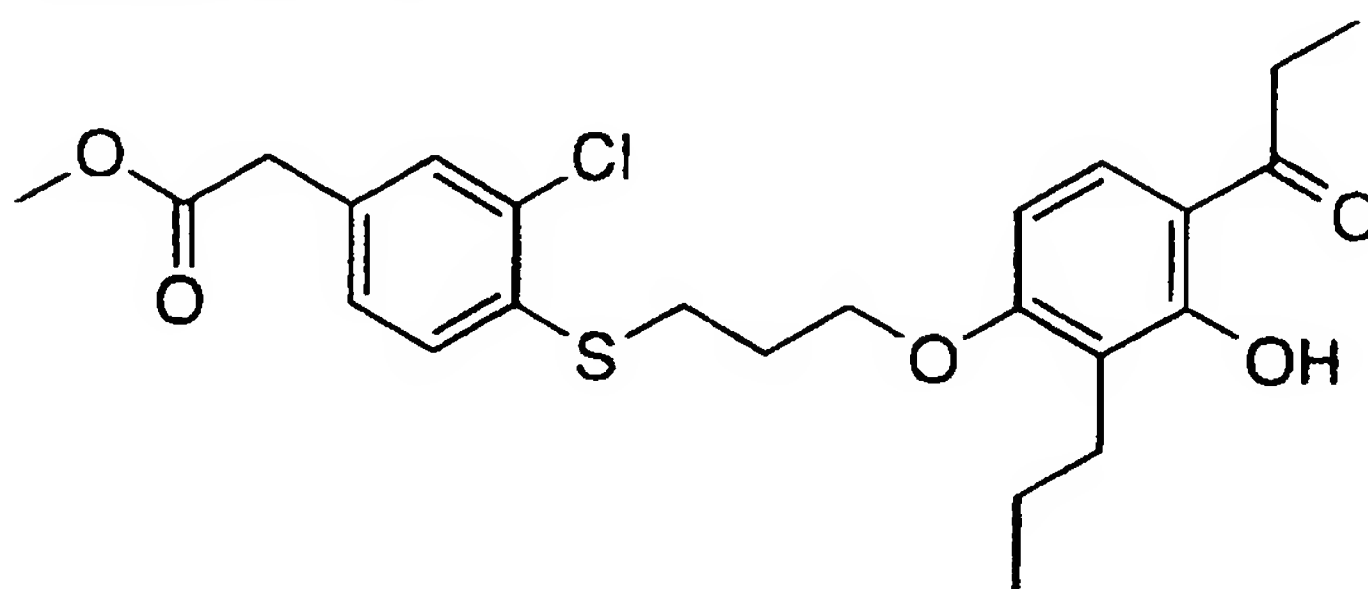
EXAMPLE 8

Preparation of 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-hydroxyliminopropyl)phenoxy)-propylthio)phenylacetic acid (Compound B):

- 33 -



Step 1: Preparation of:



5

Methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-propionylphenoxy)-  
propylthio)-phenylacetate

10

Step A: Preparation of 1-bromo-3-(2-propyl-3-  
hydroxy-4-propionyl-phenoxy)propane

A solution of 3-propyl-2,4-dihydroxypropiophenone (25.545 grams) in 2-butanone (300 mL) was treated with 1,3-dibromopropane (48.79 mL) and potassium carbonate (50.859 grams). The mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic was washed once with water, then dried over magnesium sulfate. The organic was filtered and evaporated to an oil which was chromatographed over silica gel with hexane/methylene chloride (2:1) to afford the title compound.

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- 34 -

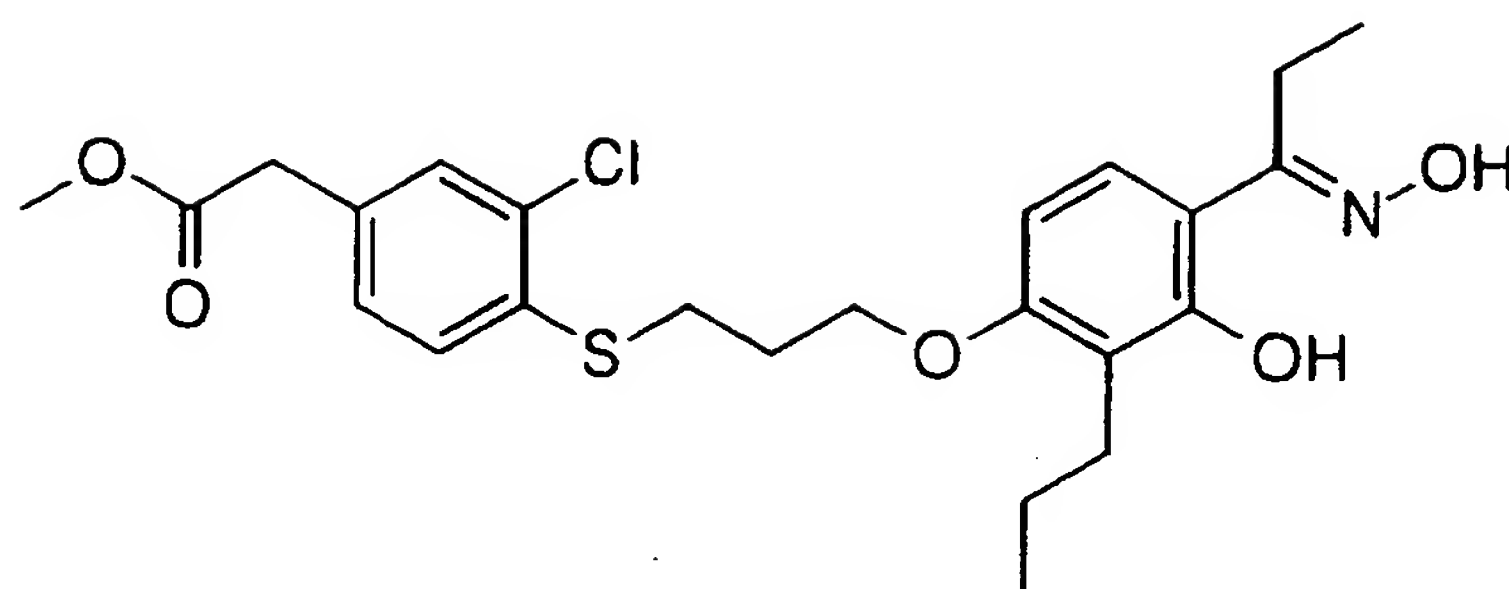
NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.62 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.43 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 4.16 (t, 2H, J = 5.8 Hz), 3.60 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.94 (quart, 2H, J = 7.3 Hz), 2.61 (bt, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz).

5                    Step B:        Preparation of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-propionylphenoxy)propylthio)-phenylacetate

                    A solution of 3-chloro-4-  
10 dimethylcarbamoylthiophenylacetic acid methyl ester (33.038 grams) in dry methanol (350 mL) was treated with a solution of sodium methoxide in methanol (25wt%; 34.15 mL). The solution was refluxed for 2 hours. HPLC analysis showed the disappearance of the carbamate. The solution was allowed to cool to 50°C. 1-bromo-3-(2-propyl-3-  
15 hydroxy-4-propionylphenoxy)propane (31.5 grams) was added and the solution stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic was washed once more with pH 4 buffer, then water. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to an oil. The oil was applied to a  
20 silica gel column packed with hexane/methylene chloride (2:1). The column was eluted with this mobile phase until the product began to appear in the eluant. The mobile phase was switched to 100% methylene chloride and elution continued until all the product was recovered.  
25 NMR (Acetone)  $\delta$  7.81 (d, 1H, J = 9.1 Hz), 7.25 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz), 6.62 (d, 1H, J = 9.1 Hz), 4.27 (t, 2H, J = 5.9 Hz), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.25 (t, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 3.04 (quart, 2H, J = 7.3 Hz), 2.65 (bt, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz).

30    Step 2:        Preparation of:

- 35 -



Methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-  
hydroxyiminopropyl)phenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate

5

A solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-propionylphenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate (25.655 grams) in dry methanol (260 mL) was treated with hydroxylamine hydrochloride (3.833 grams). Anhydrous sodium acetate (4.524 grams) was added and the mixture refluxed for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 7 buffer. The organic phase was washed once with water and dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to give the title compound as an oil.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.11 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz), 6.42 (d, 1H, J = 8.9 Hz), 4.09 (t, 2H, J = 5.7 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.14 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.83 (quart, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.66 (bt, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz).

15

Step 3: Preparation of 3-Chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-hydroxyiminopropyl)phenoxy)-propylthio)phenylacetic acid (Compound B)

20

A solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-hydroxyiminopropyl)phenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate (21.15 grams) in methanol (250 mL) was treated with a solution of lithium hydroxide in water (1.299 M; 67.84 mL). The reaction was refluxed 1 hour. The reaction mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and 0.1N HCl. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to a solid. The solid was dissolved in methylene chloride (80 mL) and heated to reflux. Cyclohexane (80 mL) was

25

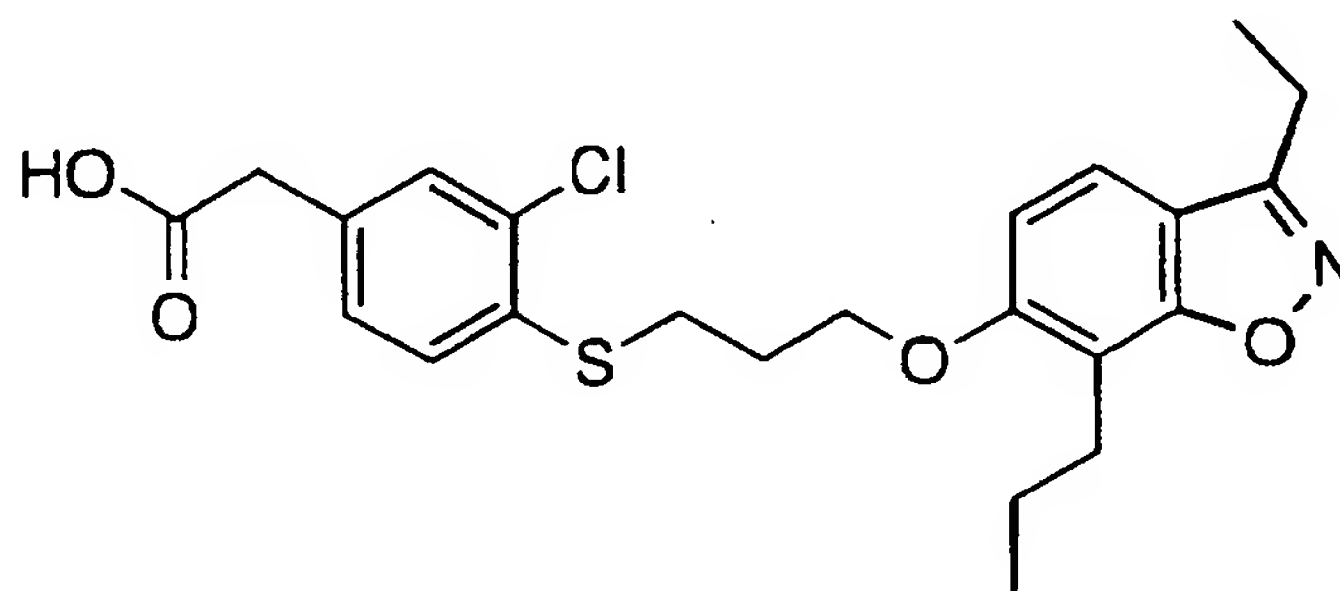
- 36 -

added dropwise. The solution was cooled to 0°C and the title compound was isolated by filtration.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.11 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz), 6.42 (d, 1H, J = 8.9 Hz), 4.09 (t, 2H, J = 5.7 Hz), 3.13 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.82 (quart, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.64 (bt, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz).

### EXAMPLE 9

Preparation of 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-ethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)-phenylacetic acid (Compound C):



15 Step 1: Preparation of 1-bromo-3-(2-hydroxy-3-propyl-4-propionylphenoxy)propane

A solution of 2,4-dihydroxy-3-propylphenyl ethyl ketone (25.545 grams) in 2-butanone (300 mL) was treated with 1,3-dibromopropane (48.79 mL) and potassium carbonate (50.859 grams). The mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic was washed once with water, then dried over magnesium sulfate. The organic was filtered and evaporated to an oil which was chromatographed over silica gel with hexane/methylene chloride (2:1) to afford the title compound.

- 37 -

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.62 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 6.43 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 4.16 (t, 2H, J = 5.8 Hz), 3.60 (t, 2H, J = 6.4 Hz), 2.94 (quart, 2H, J = 7.3 Hz), 2.61 (bt, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz).

5    Step 2:        Preparation of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-propionylphenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate

---

10                    A solution of 3-chloro-4-dimethylcarbamoylthio-phenylacetic acid methyl ester (33.038 grams) in dry methanol (350 mL) was treated with a solution of sodium methoxide in methanol (25wt%; 34.15 mL). The solution was refluxed for 2 hours. HPLC analysis showed the disappearance of the carbamate. The solution was allowed to cool to 50°C. 1-bromo-3-(2-hydroxy-3-propyl-4-propionylphenoxy)propane (31.500 grams) was added and the solution  
15                    stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic was washed once more with pH 4 buffer, then water. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to an oil. The oil was applied to a silica gel column packed with hexane/methylene chloride (2:1). The column was  
20                    eluted with this mobile phase until the product began to appear in the eluant. The mobile phase was switched to 100% methylene chloride and elution continued until all the title compound was recovered.

25                    NMR (Acetone)  $\delta$  7.81 (d, 1H, J = 9.1 Hz), 7.25 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz), 6.62 (d, 1H, J = 9.1 Hz), 4.27 (t, 2H, J = 5.9 Hz), 3.64 (s, 3H), 3.25 (t, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 3.04 (quart, 2H, J = 7.3 Hz), 2.65 (bt, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz).

30                    Step 3:        Preparation of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-hydroxyiminopropyl)phenoxy)propylthio)-phenylacetate

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                      A solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-propionylphenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate (25.655 grams) in dry methanol (260 mL) was treated with hydroxylamine hydrochloride

- 38 -

(3.833 grams). Anhydrous sodium acetate (4.524 grams) was added and the mixture refluxed for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 7 buffer. The organic phase was washed once with water and dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and  
5 evaporated to an oil. The title compound was used without further purification.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.11 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz), 6.42 (d, 1H, J = 8.9 Hz), 4.09 (t, 2H, J = 5.7 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.14 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.83 (quart, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz), 2.66 (bt, 2H, J = 7.7 Hz).

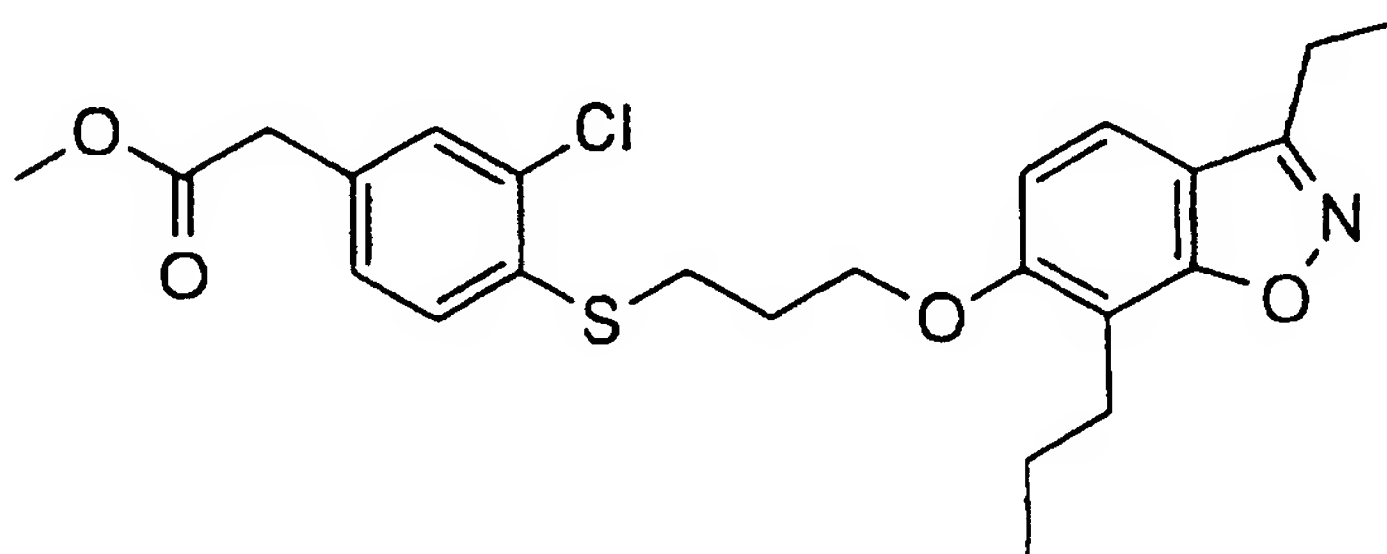
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Step 4: Preparation of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-acetoxyiminopropyl)phenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate

A solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-hydroxyiminopropyl)phenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate (5.96 grams)  
15 in acetic anhydride (50 mL) was stirred for 16 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo*. The remaining residue was dissolved in isopropyl acetate and washed with pH 7 buffer. The organic phase was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated. The title compound was  
20 used without further purification.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.11 (dd, 1H, J = 8.0, 1.9 Hz), 6.44 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 4.10 (t, 2H, J = 5.7 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.13 (t, 2H, J = 7.2 Hz), 2.86 (quart, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.67 (bt, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.22 (s, 3H).

25 Step 5: Preparation of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-ethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)phenylacetate

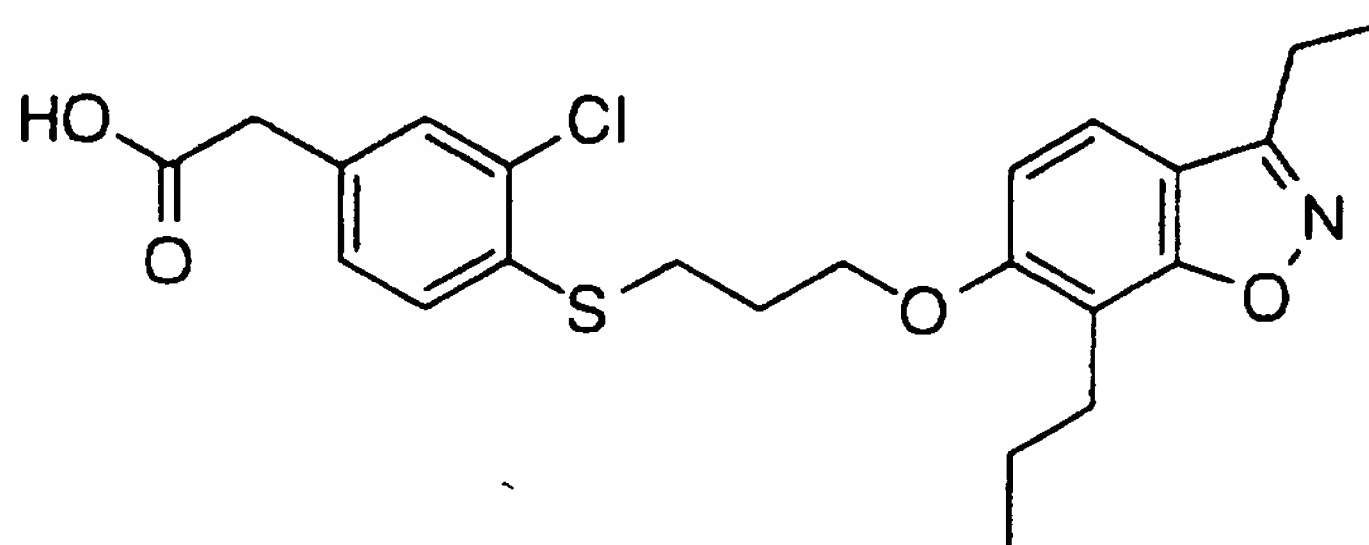


- 39 -

A solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-hydroxy-4-(1-acetoxyiminopropyl)phenoxy)propylthio)phenylacetate (6.19 grams) in dry pyridine (65 mL) was refluxed for 3 hours. The solvent was removed *in vacuo* and the residue partitioned between isopropyl acetate and 0.1N HCl. The organic was washed once more with 0.1N HCl. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to an oil. The crude product was placed on a silica gel column and eluted with hexane/CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1:1) until the product appeared in the eluant. The mobile phase was changed to 100% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and elution continued until all the title compound was recovered.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.38 (d, 1H, J = 8.6 Hz), 7.10 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz), 6.87 (d, 1H, J = 8.6 Hz), 4.17 (t, 2H, J = 5.8 Hz), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.16 (t, 2H, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.94 (quart, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.85 (bt, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz).

Step 6: Preparation of 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-ethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)-phenylacetic acid (Compound C)



20

A solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-ethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)phenylacetate (4.95 grams) in methanol (95 mL) was treated with a solution of LiOH in water (1.299 M; 16.50 mL). The solution was refluxed for 1 hour. The solution was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and 0.1N HCl. The organic layer was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to a solid. The solid was suspended in methylene chloride (18 mL) and heated to reflux. Cyclohexane (18mL) was added dropwise while

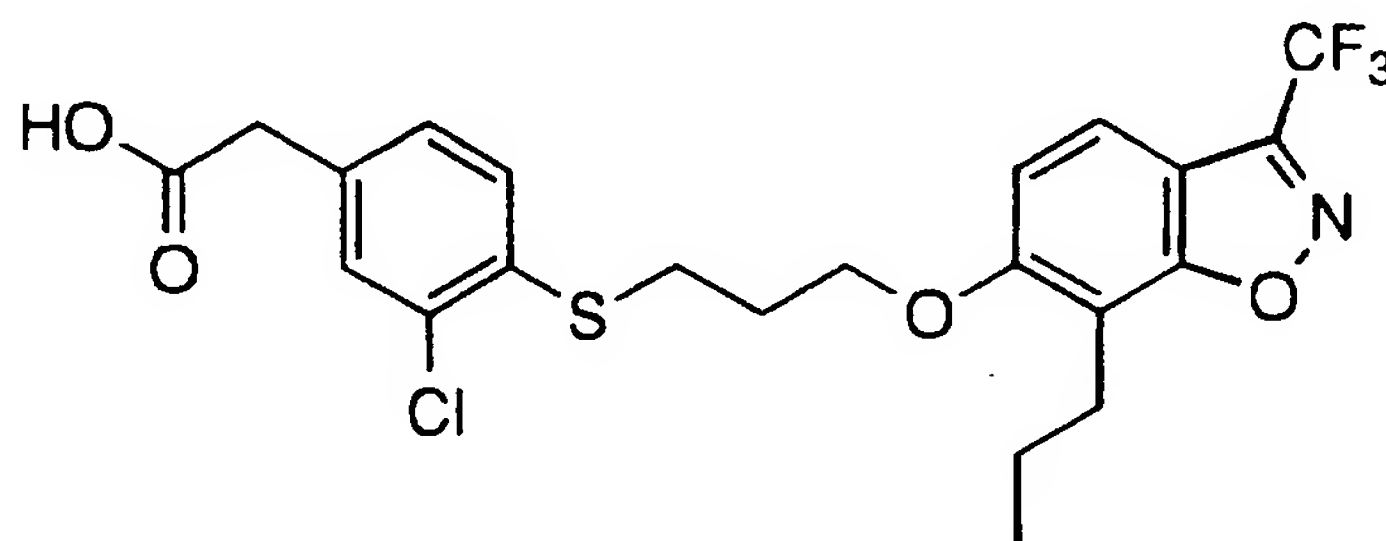
- 40 -

refluxing. The solution was cooled to 0°C and the title compound isolated by filtration.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.38 (d, 1H, J = 8.7 Hz), 7.10 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz), 6.87 (d, 1H, J = 8.7 Hz), 4.17 (t, 2H, J = 5.8 Hz), 3.57 (s, 2H), 3.16 (t, 2H, J = 7.1 Hz), 2.94 (quart, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.85 (bt, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz).

### EXAMPLE 10

- 10 Preparation of 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-trifluoromethyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)phenylacetic acid (Compound D):



- 15 Step 1: Preparation of 2,4-dihydroxy-3-propyl-trifluoroacetophenone

A solution of 2-propylresorcinol (5.0 grams) and trifluoroacetic anhydride (9.6 mL) in 1,2-dichloroethane (30.0 mL) was treated with aluminum chloride (4.38 grams). This mixture was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was partitioned between methylene chloride and water. The organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate and filtered. The solvent was evaporated and the resulting solid was recrystallized using methylene chloride and cyclohexane (1:1) to give the titled compound.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 7.59 (d, 1H), 6.24 (d, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 2.63 (t, 2H), 1.74 (s, 1H), 1.58 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, 3H).

- 41 -

Step 2: Preparation of 3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-hydroxy-benzisoxazole

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A mixture of 2,4-dihydroxy-3-propyl-  
5 trifluoroacetophenone(2.5 grams), sodium acetate (4.18 grams),  
hydroxylamine hydrochloride (3.59 grams) and methanol (80 mL) was  
refluxed overnight. The solvent was then evaporated and the resulting  
solid was partitioned in ethyl acetate and pH 7 buffer. The organic  
phase was seperated and washed with brine. The organic phase was  
10 dried over sodium sulfate and the solvent was evaporated to give a oil.  
The oil was then dissolved in acetic anhydride. The solution was stirred  
for two hours, then the acetic anhydride was evaporated in vacuo. The  
residue was partitioned between ethyl acetate and pH 7 buffer and the  
organic phase was dried over sodium sulfate. The organic phase was  
15 evaporated to give an oil. This was dissolved in pyridine and refluxed  
overnight. The solvent was evaporated in vacuo to give an oil which  
was chromatographed on silica gel using ethyl acetate and hexane (1:4)  
to give the titled compound.  
NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.46 (d, 1H), 6.92 (d, 1H), 5.42 (bs, 1H), 2.89 (t, 2H),  
20 1.74 (m, 2H), 0.98 (t, 3H).

Step 3: Preparation of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-trifluoromethyl-6-benz- [4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)  
phenylacetic acid

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25 A solution of 3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-hydroxy-benzisoxazole (2.5 grams) in 2-butanone (30 mL) was treated with 1,3-dibromopropane (4.8 mL) and potassium carbonate (5.0 grams). The mixture was refluxed for 4 hours. The reaction mixture was  
30 partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic was washed once with water, then dried over magnesium sulfate. The organic was filtered and evaporated to an oil which was flitered through a silica gel plug using methylene chloride and hexane (1:2) to give 3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-(3-bromopropoxy)-benzisoxazole. A

- 42 -

solution of 3-chloro-4-dimethylcarbamoylthio-phenylacetic acid methyl ester (0.33 grams) in dry methanol (3.5 mL) was treated with a solution of sodium methoxide in methanol (25wt%; 0.341mL). The solution was refluxed for 2 hours. HPLC analysis showed the disappearance of the carbamate. The solution was allowed to cool to 50°C. 3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-(3-bromopropoxy)-benzoxazole (0.31 grams) was added and the solution stirred for 1 hour. The reaction was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic was washed once more with pH 4 buffer, then water. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to an oil. The oil was applied to a silica gel column packed with hexane/methylene chloride (2:1). The column was eluted with this mobile phase until the product began to appear in the eluant. The mobile phase was switched to 100% methylene chloride and elution continued until all the product was recovered.

NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.52 (d, 2H), 7.30 (d, 1H), 7.27 (d, 1H), 7.12 (d, 1H), 7.08 (d, 1H), 4.21 (t, 2H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H), 3.15 (t, 2H), 2.89 (t, 2H), 2.19 (m, 2H), 1.68 (m, 2H), 0.94 (t, 3H).

Step 4: Preparation of 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-trifluoromethyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)phenylacetic acid (Compound D)

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A solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(2-propyl-3-trifluoromethyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)propylthio)phenylacetic acid (0.113 grams) in methanol (1.5 mL) was treated with a solution of lithium hydroxide in water (1.01 M; 0.362 mL). The reaction was refluxed 1 hour. The reaction mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and 0.1N HCl. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated to a solid. The solid was suspended in methylene chloride/cyclohexane (1:1; 2 mL). The mixture was refluxed briefly and cooled to 0°C. The title compound was isolated by filtration.

- 43 -

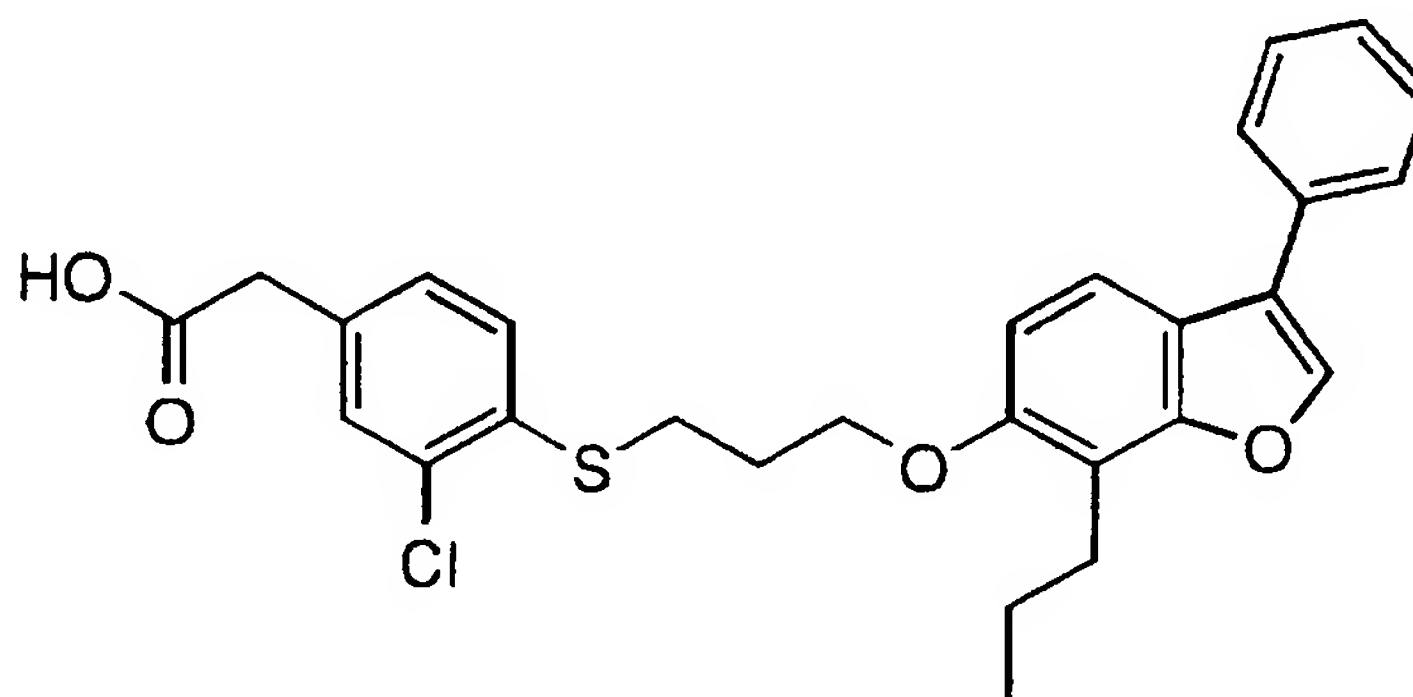
NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.53(d, 2H), 7.31 (d, 1H), 7.27 (d, 1H), 7.12 (d, 1H), 7.02 (d, 1H), 4.21 (t, 2H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 3.16 (t, 2H), 2.89 (t, 2H), 2.19 (m, 2H), 1.67 (m, 2H), 0.93 (t, 3H).

ESI-MS: m/e = 488 (m+1).

5

### EXAMPLE 11

Preparation of 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-phenyl-7-propylbenzofuran-6-yloxy)propylthio)-phenylacetic acid (Compound E):



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#### Step 1: Preparation of 2-propyl-3-(2-phenyl-2-oxoethoxy)phenol

15 To a solution of 2-propyl resorcinol (178.27 g; 1.171 mol) in dry DMF (dimethylformamide) (1200 mL) was added Cesium carbonate (104.95 g; 322.12 mmol). The mixture was stirred at room temperature and treated dropwise with a solution of 2-bromoacetophenone (58.29 G; 292.84 mmol) in dry DMF (500 mL)  
20 over 2 hours. The was stirred at ambient temperature for 64 hours. The reaction mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and water. The aqueous was adjusted to pH 13 by addition of aq. 5 N sodium hydroxide. The organic was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to a residue. The residue was dissolved in  
25 methylene chloride (110 mL) and hexane (350 mL) and heated to reflux. The solution was cooled to -10°C. Stirring was continued for 1 hour. The title compound was recovered by filtration.

- 44 -

<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 8.00 (dd, J = 7.3, 1.3 Hz, 2H), 7.59 (t, J = 7.2, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dt, J = 7.6, 1.5 Hz, 2H), 6.98 (t, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.38 (d, J = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 4.75 (s, very broad, 1H), 2.66 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.57 (hex, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 0.94 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

Step 2: Preparation of 3-phenyl-6-hydroxy-7-propylbenzofuran

To a stirred suspension of 2-propyl-3-(2-phenyl-2-oxoethoxy)phenol (9.30 g) in o-phosphoric acid (85%) (93 mL) at room temperature was added over a 45 minutes period phosphorus pentoxide (46.50 g). During this period the reaction mixture was heated several times with a heat gun. After stirring the mixture for 30 minutes the reaction was checked by TLC (thin layer chromatography - take a little of sample with a capillary and dissolve sample in water and add several drops of ether; elution: 50% methylene chloride in hexane). The reaction mixture was heated again with a heat gun if the reaction was not complete. The reaction mixture continued to be stirred for 20 minutes, then was poured into a beaker containing ice. The reaction flask was then rinsed with water and ether, and the washings were added to the beaker. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated. Column chromatography( silica gel 60, 50% methylene chloride in hexane) gave the title compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.71 (s, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 2H), 7.51 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (dt, J = 7.3, 1.8 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (dt, J = 7.2, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1H), 4.74 (s, very broad, 1H), 2.90 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 1.75 (hex, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 1.03 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

Step 3: Preparation of 3-phenyl-6-(3-bromopropoxy)-7-propylbenzofuran

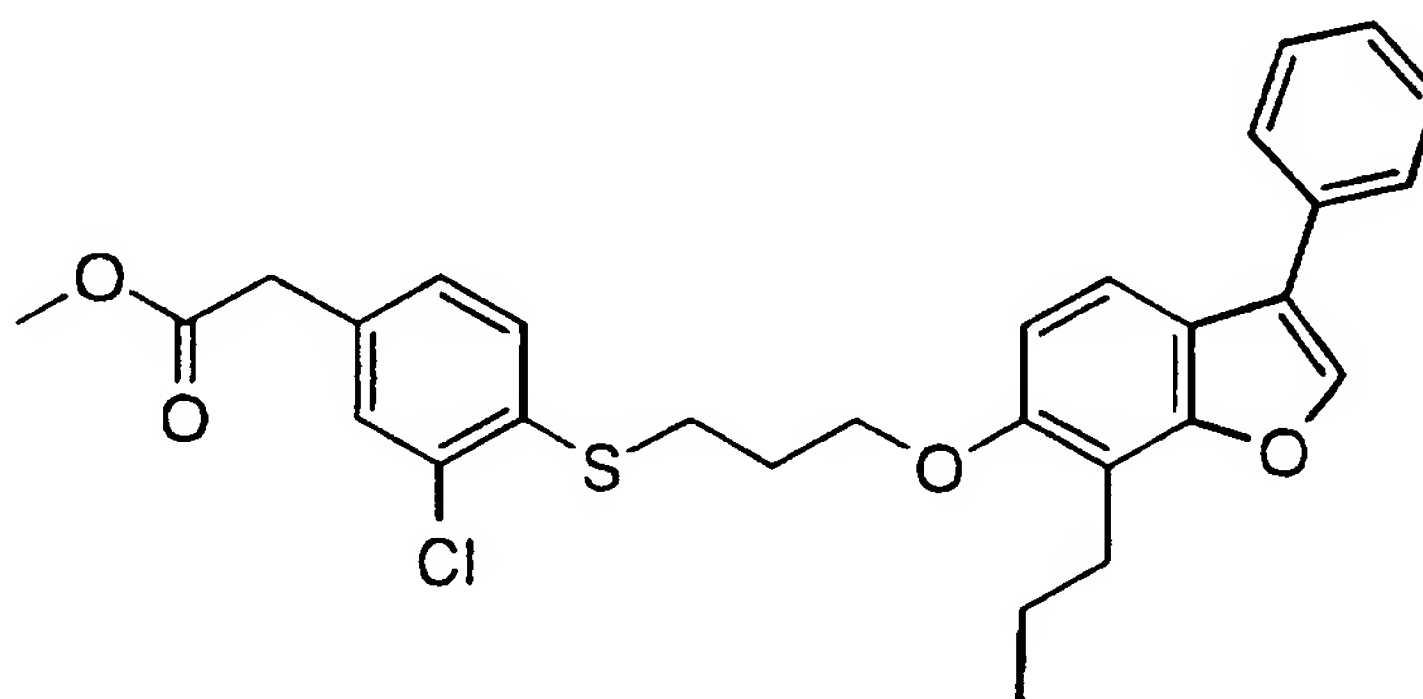
To a solution of 3-phenyl-6-hydroxy-7-propylbenzofuran (3.54 g, 13.99 mmol) and potassium carbonate (2.08 g, 15.05 mmol) in

- 45 -

dry methyl ethyl ketone (50 ml) was added 1,3-dibromopropane (2.84 ml, 27.98 mmol). The reaction mixture refluxed for 5 hours under nitrogen. The mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH4 buffer. The organic was dried over sodium sulfate. The solvent  
5 was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by chromatography ( silica gel, 50% methylene chloride in hexane) to afford the title compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.62 (dd, J = 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 7.56 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (td, J = 6.8, 1.6 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (dd, J  
10 = 7.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.92 (d, J = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 4.16 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.65 (t, J = 6.4 Hz, 2H), 2.88 (t, J = 6.2 Hz, 2H), 2.36 (quint, J = 6.3 Hz, 2H), 1.70 (hex, J = 6.1 Hz, 2H), 0.98 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 3H).

Step 4: Preparation of Methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-phenyl-7-  
15 propylbenzofuran-6-yloxy)propylthio)phenylacetate



To a solution of 3-chloro-4-dimethylcarbomoylthio-  
benzene-acetic acid, methyl ester (3.88 g, 13.50 mmol) and methanol  
20 (40 ml), was added 4.37M sodium methoxide (3.35 ml, 14.63 mmol). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 hr, was then allowed to cool to 50°C. 3-phenyl-6-(3-bromopropyloxy)-7-propylbenzofuran (4.20 g, 11.25 mmol) was added , and the mixture was stirred at 50°C for 1.5 hr. The mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH4  
25 buffer. The organic was dried over sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by

chromatography ( silica gel, 50% methylene chloride in hexane) to afford the title compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.70 ( s, 1H), 7.60 ( dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.53 (d, J = 8.3, Hz, 1H), 7.45 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.34 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.28 (m, 2H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.2, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.14 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.69 (s, 3H), 3.55 (s, 2H), 3.17 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (quint, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.71 (hex, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

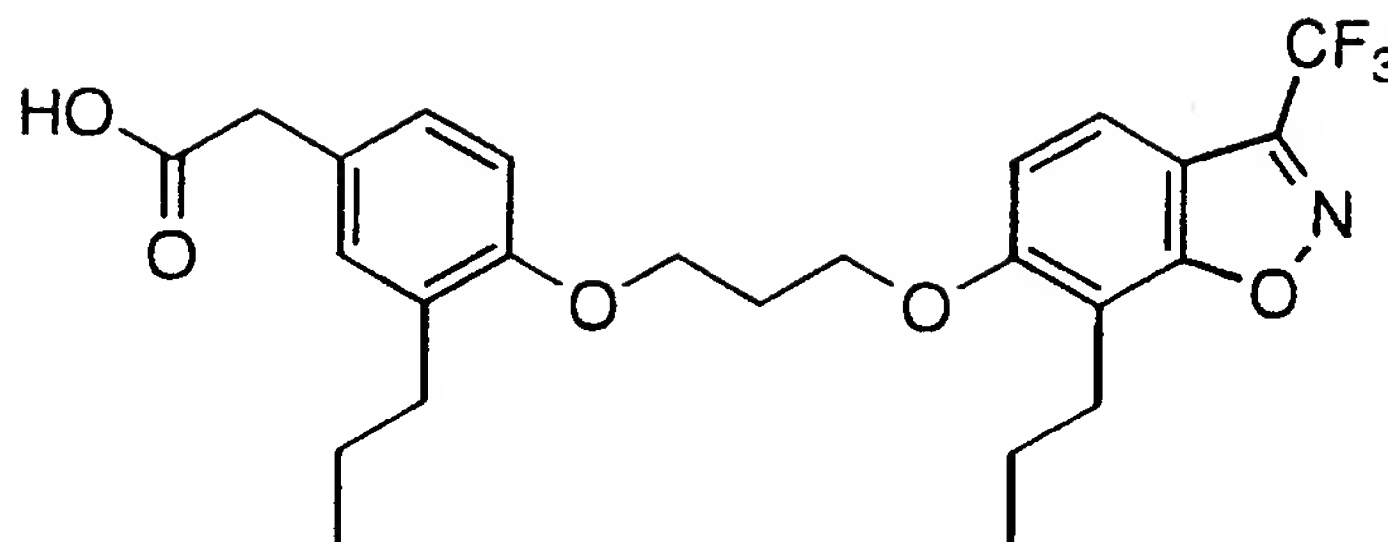
10    Step 5:      Preparation of 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-phenyl-7-propylbenzofuran-6-yloxy)propylthio)phenylacetic acid (Compound E)

To a solution of methyl 3-chloro-4-(3-(3-phenyl-7-propylbenzofuran-6-yloxy)propylthio)phenylacetate (3.72 g, 7.31 mmol) prepared in last step and aqueous lithium hydroxide (1.0 M; 14.62 ml; 14.62 mmol) in methanol (25 ml) was refluxed for 1 hr. The mixture was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH4 buffer. The organic was dried over sodium sulfate. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by chromatography (silica gel, 50% methylene chloride in hexane) to afford the title compound. M.P: 143°C. ESI-MS: m/e- 495(M+1)  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.70 (s, 1H), 7.61 (dd, J = 8.3, 1.2 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (d, J = 8.4, Hz, 1H), 7.44 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (dd, J = 8.4, 1.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29 (m, 2H), 7.11 (dd, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (d, J = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 4.15 (t, J = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.57 (s, 2H), 3.17 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 2.89 (t, J = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 2.18 (quint, J = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 1.71 (hex, J = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 0.96 (t, J = 7.3 Hz, 3H).

30 EXAMPLE 12

**Preparation of 3-propyl-4-(3-(3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)-propylthio)phenylacetic acid (Compound F):**

- 47 -



5    Step 1:    Preparation of methyl 4-allyloxyphenylacetate

A solution of methyl 4-hydroxyphenylacetate (3.2 grams) in 2-butanone (70 mL) was treated with allyl bromide (2.0 mL) and potassium carbonate (3.5 grams). The mixture was refluxed overnight.  
10    The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated. Column Chromatography (silica gel 60, 50% methylene chloride in hexane) gave the title compound.  
15    <sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.16 (d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz), 6.85 (d, 2H, J = 8.7 Hz), 6.04 (m, 1H), 5.4-5.2 (m, 2H), 4.5 (m, 2H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.54 (s, 2H).

20    Step 2:    Preparation of methyl 3-allyl-4-hydroxyphenylacetate

A solution of methyl 4-allyloxyphenylacetate (3.1 grams) in dry ortho-dichlorobenzene (50 mL) was refluxed for 25 hours. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the residue was purified by chromatography ( silica gel, 50% methylene chloride in  
25    hexane) to afford the title compound.  
<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.71 (d, 1H, J = 7.4 Hz), 5.27 (s, 1H), 5.12 (m, 2H), 3.67 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 3.35 (m, 2H).

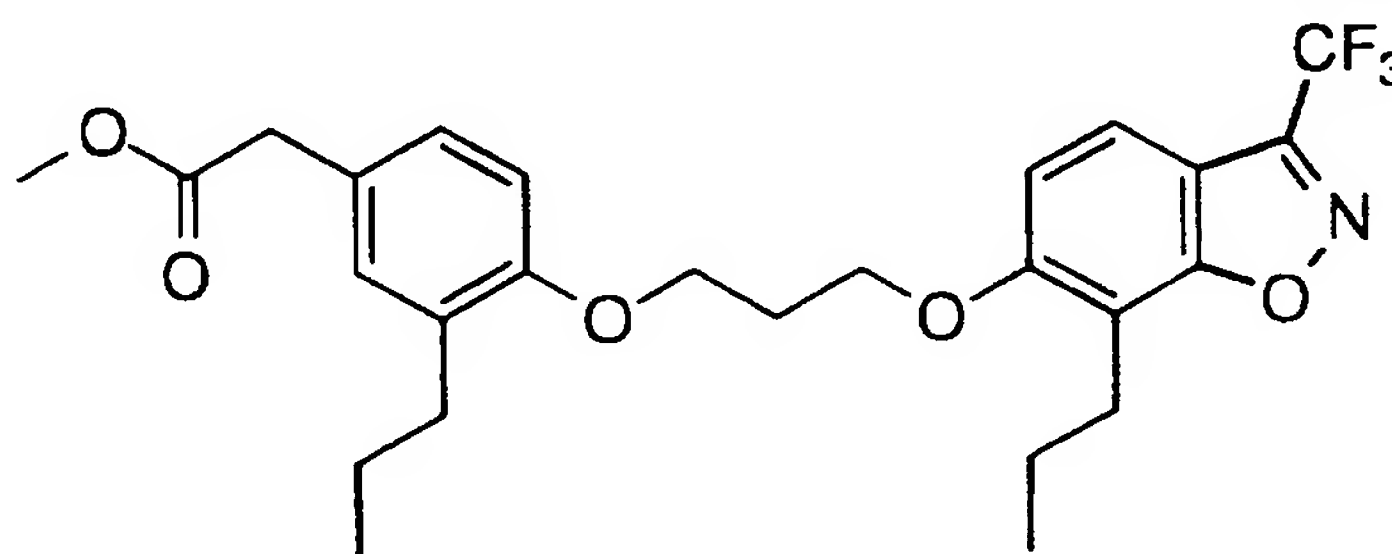
Step 3:    Preparation of methyl 3-propyl-4-hydroxyphenylacetate

- 48 -

A solution of methyl 3-allyl-4-hydroxyphenylacetate (1.71 grams) and palladium (10 wt.% on activated carbon) (0.27 grams) in ethyl acetate (30 mL) was hydrogenated at 50 PSI for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was filtered and concentrated to afford the title compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 6.99 (d, 1H, J = 2.2 Hz), 6.95 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 2.2 Hz), 6.67 (d, 1H, J = 8.1 Hz), 4.83 (s, 1H), 3.66 (s, 3H), 3.51 (s, 2H), 2.53 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 1.61 (hex, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 0.95 (t, 3H, J = 7.3 Hz).

Step 4: Preparation of methyl 3-propyl-4-(3-(3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)-propylthio)phenylacetate



15

A solution of methyl 3-propyl-4-hydroxyphenylacetate (0.10 grams), 3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-(3-bromopropoxy)-benzisoxazole (0.21 grams) and potassium carbonate (0.07 grams) in 2-butanone (4 mL) was refluxed overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and partitioned between isopropyl acetate and pH 4 buffer. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated. Column Chromatography (silica gel 60, 50% methylene chloride in hexane) gave the title compound.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.53 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.03 (d, 1H, J = 8.9 Hz), 7.01 (m, 2H), 6.78 (d, 1H, J = 8.3 Hz), 4.30 (t, 2H, J = 6.1 Hz), 4.16 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 3.65 (s, 3H), 3.52 (s, 2H), 2.87 (t, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.53 (t, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.32 (quint, 2H, J = 6.1 Hz), 1.66 (hex,

2H,  $J = 7.6$  Hz), 1.55 (hex, 2H,  $J = 7.5$  Hz), 0.91 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz), 0.87 (t, 3H,  $J = 7.3$  Hz).

**Step 5:** Preparation of 3-propyl-4-(3-(3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)-propylthio)phenylacetic acid (Compound F)

10 A solution of methyl 3-propyl-4-(3-(3-trifluoromethyl-7-propyl-6-benz-[4,5]-isoxazoloxy)-propylthio)phenylacetate (0.08 grams) in methanol (3 mL) was treated with a solution of LiOH in water (1.0 M, 0.32 mL). The solution was refluxed for 1 hour. The solution was partitioned between isopropyl acetate and 0.2 N HCl. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and concentrated to afford the title compound.

15 <sup>1</sup>H NMR( 400MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ 7.53 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz), 7.05 (d, 1H, J =  
8.8 Hz), 7.02 (m, 2H), 6.79 (d, 1H, J = 8.3 Hz), 4.29 (t, 2H, J = 6.1 Hz),  
4.16 (t, 2H, J = 6.0 Hz), 3.54 (s, 2H), 2.88 (t, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 2.52 (t,  
2H, J = 7.6 Hz), 2.33 (quint, 2H, J = 6.1 Hz), 1.67 (hex, 2H, J = 7.6 Hz),  
1.54 (hex, 2H, J = 7.5 Hz), 0.90 (t, 3H, J = 7.3 Hz), 0.86 (t, 3H, J = 7.3  
20 Hz).

While the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to certain particular embodiments thereof, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various changes, modifications and substitutions can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, effective dosages other than the particular dosages as set forth herein above may be applicable as a consequence of variations in the responsiveness of the mammal being treated for any of the indications for the active agents used in the instant invention as indicated above. Likewise, the specific pharmacological responses observed may vary according to and depending upon the particular active compound selected or whether there are present pharmaceutical carriers, as well as the type of formulation and mode of administration employed, and such expected variations or differences in the results are contemplated in

- 50 -

accordance with the objects and practices of the present invention. It is intended, therefore, that the invention be defined by the scope of the claims which follow and that such claims be interpreted as broadly as is reasonable.

- 51 -

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound useful for raising the plasma level of high density lipoprotein in a mammal which is a PPAR $\delta$  agonist.  
5
2. The compound of Claim 1 which has an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10  $\mu$ M in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay and an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10  $\mu$ M in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay.
- 10 3. The compound of Claim 2 which has an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 100 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay and an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 100 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay.
- 15 4. The compound of Claim 3 which has an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 50 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay and an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 50 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay.
- 20 5. The compound of Claim 4 which has an IC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  binding assay and an EC<sub>50</sub> equal to or less than 10 nM in the hPPAR $\delta$  transactivation assay.
- 25 6. A method for raising the plasma level of high density lipoprotein in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 1.
- 30 7. A method for raising the plasma level of high density lipoprotein in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the compound of claim 2.
8. A method for raising the plasma level of high density lipoprotein in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the compound of claim 3.

- 52 -

9. A method for raising the plasma level of high density lipoprotein in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the compound of claim 4.

5 10. A method for raising the plasma level of high density lipoprotein in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the compound of claim 5.

10 11. The method of Claim 6 wherein the mammal is a human.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein the human is at risk for developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event.

15 13. The method of Claim 11 wherein the human has atherosclerosis.

20 14. The method of Claim 6 further comprising the administration of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of one or more additional active agents selected from the group consisting of: an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent; a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor; an acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol  
25 acyltransferase inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof; niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; a low density lipoprotein receptor inducer; clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil; vitamin B6 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B12; an anti-oxidant  
30 vitamin; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; a platelet aggregation inhibitor; a fibrinogen receptor antagonist; and aspirin.

- 53 -

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein the additional active agent is a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor.

5 16. The method of Claim 15 wherein the cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

10 17. The method of Claim 16 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lactone, free acid, ester and salt forms of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin and rivastatin.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from lovastatin and simvastatin.

15 19. A method for reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 1 to a mammal at risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event.

20 20. A method for reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 2 to a mammal at risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event.

25 21. A method for reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 3 to a mammal at risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event.

30 22. A method for reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event comprising

- 54 -

administering a prophylactically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 4 to a mammal at risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event.

5                   23. A method for reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 5 to a mammal at risk of developing atherosclerosis or having an atherosclerotic disease event.

10                   24. The method of Claim 19 wherein the mammal is a human.

15                   25. The method of Claim 24 wherein the human is at risk for developing atherosclerosis.

26. The method of Claim 24 wherein the human is at risk for having an atherosclerotic disease event .

20                   27. The method of Claim 19 further comprising the administration of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound in combination with a prophylactically effective amount of one or more additional active agents selected from the group consisting of: an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent; a  
25                   cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor; an acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol acyltransferase inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof; niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; a low density lipoprotein receptor inducer; clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil; vitamin B<sub>6</sub> and the  
30                   pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B<sub>12</sub>; an anti-oxidant vitamin; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; a platelet aggregation inhibitor; a fibrinogen receptor antagonist; and aspirin.

- 55 -

28. The method of Claim 27 wherein the additional active agent is a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor.

29. The method of Claim 28 wherein the cholesterol  
5 biosynthesis inhibitor is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

30. The method of Claim 29 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lactone, free acid, ester and salt forms of lovastatin, simvastatin,  
10 pravastatin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin and rivastatin.

31. The method of Claim 30 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from lovastatin and simvastatin.

15

32. A method for treating atherosclerosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 1 to a mammal who has atherosclerosis.

20

33. A method for treating atherosclerosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 2 to a mammal who has atherosclerosis.

25 34. A method for treating atherosclerosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 3 to a mammal who has atherosclerosis.

30 35. A method for treating atherosclerosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 4 to a mammal who has atherosclerosis.

36. A method for treating atherosclerosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 5 to a mammal who has atherosclerosis.

- 56 -

37. The method of Claim 32 wherein the mammal is a human.

5 38. The method of Claim 32 further comprising the administration of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of one or more additional active agents selected from the group consisting of: an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent; a  
10 cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor; an acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol acyltransferase inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof; niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; a low density lipoprotein receptor inducer; clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil; vitamin B<sub>6</sub> and the  
15 pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B<sub>12</sub>; an anti-oxidant vitamin; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; a platelet aggregation inhibitor; a fibrinogen receptor antagonist; and aspirin.

20 39. The method of Claim 38 wherein the additional active agent is a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor.

40. The method of Claim 39 wherein the cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

25 41. The method of Claim 40 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lactone, free acid, ester and salt forms of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin and rivastatin.

30 42. The method of Claim 41 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from lovastatin and simvastatin.

- 57 -

43. A post-myocardial infarction therapy comprising administering to a human who has suffered a myocardial infarction a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 1.

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44. A post-myocardial infarction therapy comprising administering to a human who has suffered a myocardial infarction a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 2.

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45. A post-myocardial infarction therapy comprising administering to a human who has suffered a myocardial infarction a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 3.

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46. A post-myocardial infarction therapy comprising administering to a human who has suffered a myocardial infarction a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 4.

20

47. A post-myocardial infarction therapy comprising administering to a human who has suffered a myocardial infarction a high density lipoprotein-raising amount of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound of claim 5.

25

48. The method of Claim 43 wherein the human is at risk for having a subsequent atherosclerotic disease event.

49. The method of Claim 43 further comprising the administration of the PPAR $\delta$  agonist compound in combination with a therapeutically effective amount of one or more additional active agents selected from the group consisting of: an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent; a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor; an acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol

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- 58 -

acyltransferase inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof; niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; a low density lipoprotein receptor inducer; clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil; vitamin B<sub>6</sub> and the  
5 pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B<sub>12</sub>; an anti-oxidant vitamin; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; a platelet aggregation inhibitor; a fibrinogen receptor antagonist; and aspirin.

10 50. The method of Claim 49 wherein the additional active agent is a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor.

51. The method of Claim 50 wherein the cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

15 52. The method of Claim 51 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lactone, free acid, ester and salt forms of lovastatin, simvastatin, pravastatin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin and rivastatin.

20 53. The method of Claim 52 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from lovastatin and simvastatin.

25 54. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the PPAR $\delta$  agonist of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30 55. The composition of Claim 54 further comprised of one or more additional active agents selected from the group consisting of: an antihyperlipidemic agent; a plasma HDL-raising agent; an antihypercholesterolemic agent; a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor; an acyl-coenzyme A: cholesterol acyltransferase inhibitor; probucol; nicotinic acid and the salts thereof; niacinamide; a cholesterol absorption inhibitor; a bile acid sequestrant anion exchange resin; a low density lipoprotein receptor inducer; clofibrate, fenofibrate, and gemfibrozil;

- 59 -

vitamin B<sub>6</sub> and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; vitamin B<sub>12</sub>; an anti-oxidant vitamin; a beta-blocker; an angiotensin II antagonist; an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; a platelet aggregation inhibitor; a fibrinogen receptor antagonist; and aspirin.

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56. The composition of Claim 55 wherein the additional active agent is a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor.

57. The composition of Claim 56 wherein the cholesterol  
10 biosynthesis inhibitor is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

58. The composition of Claim 57 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from the pharmaceutically acceptable lactone, free acid, ester and salt forms of lovastatin, simvastatin,  
15 pravastatin, fluvastatin, atorvastatin and rivastatin.

59. The composition of Claim 58 wherein the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor is selected from lovastatin and simvastatin.

20 60. A pharmaceutical composition made by combining the PPAR $\delta$  agonist of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

61. A pharmaceutical composition made by combining the PPAR $\delta$  agonist of claim 1, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and a  
25 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

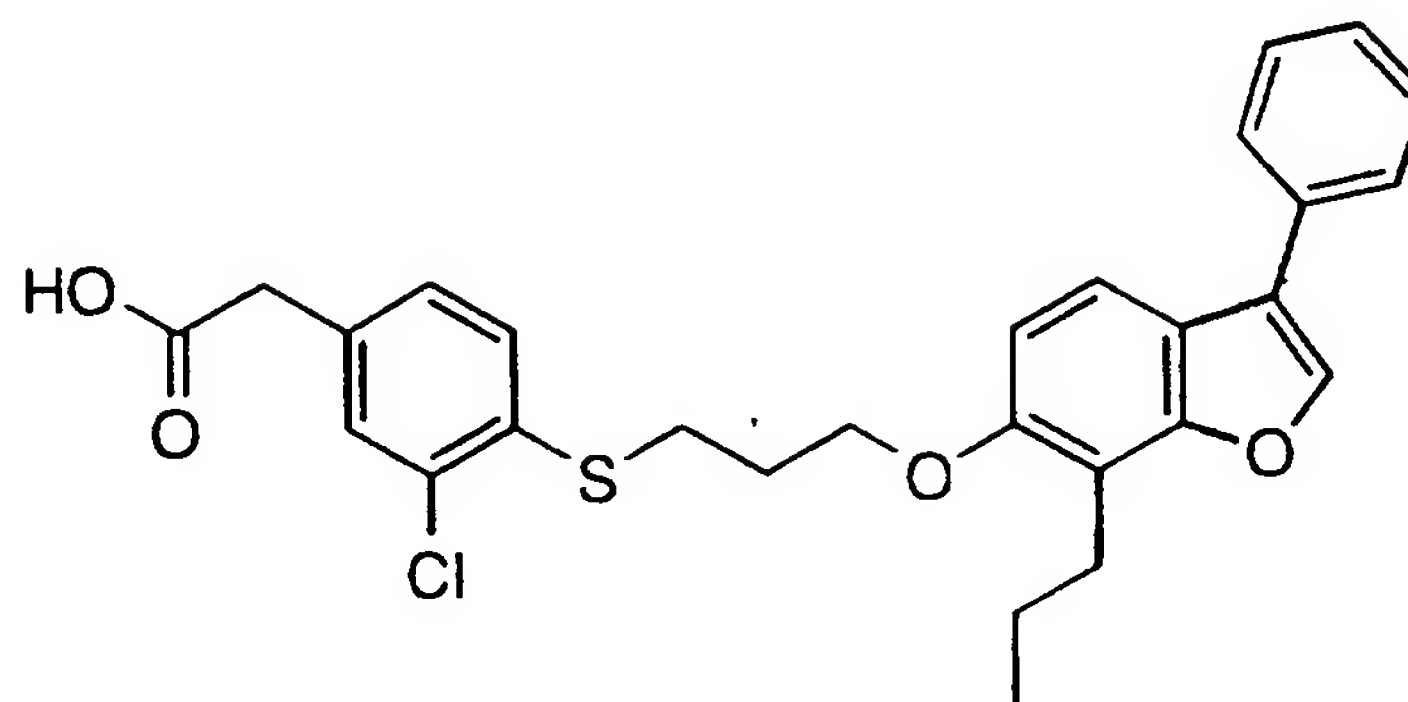
62. A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining the PPAR $\delta$  agonist of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30

63. A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining the PPAR $\delta$  agonist of claim 1, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 60 -

64. The compound of claim 1 having the following structural formula:



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US97/01808

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : C07D 307/79; A61K 31/34

US CL : 549/469; 514/469

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 549/469; 514/469

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
NONE

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

STN- File Registry and CAPLUS Files

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| A         | Database CAPLUS, Abstract No. 110:192564, HAMMOND et al. '2,3-Dihydro-5-benzofuranols as antioxidant-based inhibitors of leukotriene biosynthesis', abstract, J. Med. Chem., 32(5), 1006-20, 1989, see entire abstract. | 1-64                  |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Special categories of cited documents:  |  |
| *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  | *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  |
| *E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date  | *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone   |
| *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  |  |
| *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  | *Z* document member of the same patent family  |

Date of the actual completion of the international search

02 MAY 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

03 JUN 1997

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